

Jordan Times

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U.N. envoy continues Gulf shuttle

NICOSIA (R) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson, arriving in Tehran from Baghdad Tuesday, reported that the Gulf peace shuttle between Iraq and Iran had made significant progress since the last of his trip to Baghdad. Eliasson said he had made headway in talks in Iraq on implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the question of an Iraqi withdrawal. "It is purely a matter of time and not at all trust," the television, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as replying. It did not say who had issued the report or give other details about it. Eliasson said Iraqi troops will hold some of its territory and must leave before other articles of the U.N. resolution, including an exchange of prisoners of war, can be implemented. Eliasson's priority must be given to clearing the disputed Shatt al-Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf, of war debris and oil. Eliasson said Eliasson met Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati after arriving in Tehran from Baghdad for the fourth time in the past two weeks.

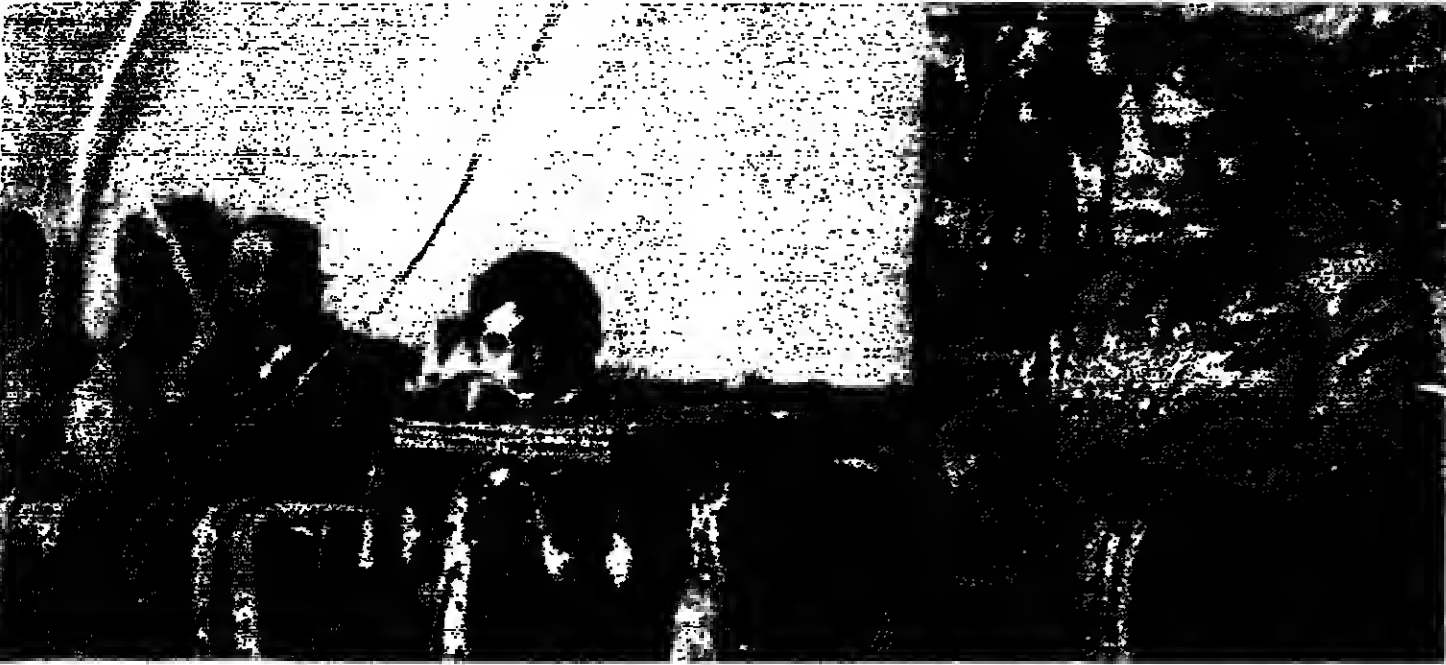
Algeria urges Sahara talks

TIARET, Algeria (R) — Algeria Tuesday urged direct talks between Morocco and independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas, saying recent fighting in the Western Sahara made them all the more imperative. Foreign Minister Salahmed Ghazali told reporters the recent warpage in Polisario attacks on Moroccan troops highlighted the need to implement a U.N. peace plan for the 14-year-old conflict. "What is happening now can only comfort us in our belief in the need to pursue this (U.N. peace) process which must be accompanied by a direct dialogue between the Moroccans and Saharans," Ghazali was accompanying the Italian and Algerian presidents on a visit to this region 210 kilometres southwest of Algiers. Algeria is the strongest political backer of the guerrillas, who have broken a one-year truce in fighting with three major attacks in the past month. Algeria halted direct military aid after joining Morocco in a regional unity pact last year. Mohammed Abdel Aziz, president of the Polisario's diplomatic arm, "the Arab Saharawi democratic republic," told Algiers radio Tuesday the attacks would continue until Rabat showed willingness to move towards a peaceful solution.

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A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST... His Majesty King Hussein attends an official ceremony decades back. To the King's right is His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, Bakhat Talhouani and Habes Al Majali (Archives photo)

Jordan celebrates Al Hussein's 54th birthday King pledges continued dedication

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday he was proud of being a member of the Jordanian family and pledged to dedicate his life in continued service of the country and its people. In a telephone interview with Radio Jordan on the occasion of his 54th birthday, which was widely celebrated in all parts of the Kingdom with festivities, the King thanked the Jordanian family and wished it every success. He said Jordan had celebrated another joyous occasion a few days ago with the general elections to parliament.

Bhutto promises cabinet reshuffle

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, seeking a broad-based government, has vowed to reshuffle her large cabinet after all her ministers and advisers resigned to allow her a free hand.

Bhutto received the resignations at a cabinet meeting Monday, 12 days after narrowly surviving an opposition parliamentary no-confidence motion aimed at toppling her 11-month-old minority government. She asked the 22 ministers and 23 deputy ministers to stay on until the reshuffle but told the meeting she would decide the future of half a dozen advisers Tuesday or Wednesday, government sources said.

The influence of non-elected advisers on the government has been criticised both by opposition parties and deputies of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). No date for the reshuffle was given but political sources said it would be soon because Bhutto was keen to create ministers from opposition deputies willing to work with her.

The reshuffle would take place at "an appropriate time," the state-run television quoted Bhutto as telling cabinet.

The Nov. 1 opposition no-confidence move in the 237-seat National Assembly (lower house) fell only 12 votes short of the required 119.

Monday's resignations were presented only two days after Bhutto made three opposition deputies as ministers as part of her pledge to broaden the base of her government.

Contacts with more opposition deputies were continuing, government sources said.

Pakistan's powerful army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, said last week he favoured the idea of a broad-based government.

The combined opposition parties coalition has accused Bhutto of trying to divide the opposition and has threatened a fresh campaign against her.

Both sides have accused each other of bringing and harassing deputies to switch sides.

tion stone for democratic life aimed at demonstrating Jordan's positive image and turning it into a model that we all seek to achieve.

The King voiced hope that Jordan's image would continue to be bright, "based on fraternity, live, tolerance, awareness and resolve to press ahead with efforts to protect the future generations and to safeguard the country's achievements."

Among the festivities organised in the country to mark the King's birthday were a children's parade, which started from the SOS Children's Village in Tareq and ended at Amman's Marriott Hotel.

Minister of Tourism Yazal Hikmat deputised for the King in receiving the children. The parade also marked the first

anniversary of the founding of the SOS Children's Village.

In Aqaba, a skiing festival was held with the participation of several international stars. It was organised by the Jordan Skiing Federation.

Several exhibitions were opened in various parts of Jordan to mark the occasion of the King's birthday.

The King also received messages of congratulations from Arab and other world leaders wishing the Monarch continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Several Arab leaders, including Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, telephoned the King to congratulate him. Among the Arab leaders who

sent messages of congratulations were Morocco's King Hassan II, Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, Bahrain's Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan.

Also sending congratulations were U.S. President George Bush, the Supreme Soviet, the Sultan of Brunei, the president of India and the president of the Philippines as well as the crown prince of Qatar, the vice-president of the United Arab Emirates, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army stationed in Jordan.

Labour puts a brake on Likud in Histadrut

TEL AVIV (R) — The Labour Party retained its grip on the powerful Histadrut workers' federation Tuesday, halting a seemingly inexorable advance by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party towards becoming Israel's dominant political force.

After trailing Likud in last year's general election and losing many urban bastions to the rightists in local elections in February, Labour regained some pride by rebuffing Likud's challenge to its absolute majority in the trade unions.

With all but a few votes counted from Monday's Histadrut elections, Labour had 55 per cent of the vote to Likud's 27 per cent. The leftist opposition Mapam took nine per cent and left-wing Arab parties shared the remaining nine per cent.

The result weakened Shamir, who had sought a vote of confidence in his tough stance on

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the independent newspaper Haaretz said.

He will not be able to claim overwhelming public backing for his foot-dragging on U.S. mediation efforts when he meets President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington Wednesday.

"If the prime minister wanted to go to the United States strengthened from the achievement of his party ahead of his difficult meeting with Bush, he failed," Haaretz said.

"Not only did Likud fail in almost every goal it set itself, but Labour managed to turn the election result into a sweeping victory and a sign of recovery after a difficult crisis in the past two elections."

Although Likud's poll was nearly five percentage points up on the 1985 Histadrut election, it came nowhere near its aims of

winning more than 30 per cent of the vote and breaking Labour's monopoly.

Labour leader Shimon Peres, the vice-premier, derided by many political analysts as a failure, emerged temporarily strengthened against critics demanding his replacement by Yitzhak Rabin, the more hawkish defence minister.

Labour parliamentarian Avraham Burg said his party might pull out of the government and try to form a narrow alliance with religious parties if Shamir returned from Washington having blocked the prospect of peace talks with the Palestinians.

But diplomats warned against over-rating the significance of the poll. They said they saw no alternative to a continuation of the uneasy Likud-led "national unity" government, although Labour might act more assertively.

Democracy breaks out in German Communist Party

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Democracy is breaking out in East Germany's ruling Communist Party, once among the most rigid of Marxist elites, as a grassroots upheaval for change forces its leaders to risk their political futures.

Under widespread attack from the party rank-and-file, the Central Committee caved in Monday evening and agreed to hold an emergency congress next month.

"Krenz could be gone by Christmas," a Western diplomat said of Egon Krenz, the unpopular former security chief who took over as party leader last month.

"We had hoped Modrow would become party leader," said Pastor Arndt Haubold of Leipzig's Nikolai church, cradle of the country's democracy movement.

Dresden reformer Hans Modrow was elected prime minister Monday and many see him as a possible challenger to Krenz.

Agreeing to an extraordinary congress, scheduled for Dec. 15-

17, was the latest in a flood of concessions the embattled leadership has made to its impatient people over the past week.

The party unleashed East Germany's rubber-stamp parliament Monday, letting critical speech gush out like water from a burst dam.

Free travel, promises of free elections, a reformist prime minister, a lively legislature, a freer press — the list of dreams becoming reality in the past week is breathtaking.

But the peaceful protesters whose mammoth marches helped put the party on the run have not let up their pressure for full democracy here.

Up to 300,000 marched Monday evening in Leipzig, 100,000 more in Dresden and another 50,000 in Karl-Marx-Stadt. Tens of thousands more took to the streets in Schwerin, Magdeburg, Neubrandenburg, Cottbus and Halle.

"Open borders cannot be the

only freedom," they chanted in Leipzig, along with "Free elections, true counts."

West Germany Tuesday offered financial aid to East Germany if the Communist state revamps its centralised economy, and West Berlin's mayor warned of economic problems caused by the newly opened borders.

Also Tuesday, a newspaper quoted Monday as saying the Berlin Wall must remain standing to keep AIDS, crime and other Western problems out of his country.

Modrow called for a coalition government but gave no indication the opposition would be part in it.

A leader of East Germany's biggest opposition group, New Forum, said the movement could work with a revamped Communist Party but that naming Modrow premier was not enough.

West German Economics

Soldier killed, another wounded in Gaza ambush Palestinians, Israeli army brace for state anniversary

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli troops blew up a building, demolished a stone wall and set up an outpost flying the Israeli flag Tuesday in a show of force at the site where an Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded in an ambush.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, touring the outskirts of Gaza City where an army jeep was ambushed Monday, said Palestinians directing the uprising in the occupied territories were turning to guns to mark Wednesday's first anniversary of a Palestinian declaration of independence.

He vowed that Israel would catch and punish the Palestinians who shot dead one soldier and critically wounded a second. Arab residents who aided the ambush would also suffer, he said.

Muslim fundamentalists claimed responsibility for the ambush.

Manweh Bakry, a 45-year-old Palestinian woman, died of chest wounds sustained in a Sept. 14 clash in Nablus, becoming the 614th Palestinian to die in the nearly two-year-old uprising.

In the occupied territories, troops shot and wounded seven

protesters in fresh clashes Monday night and Tuesday, Arab reports said.

The violent upsurge came as Israel sent reinforcements into the occupied territories.

The army closed schools in the occupied Gaza Strip, carried out a series of arrest raids in the West Bank and called up reinforcements to curb protests.

Palestinian activists launched independence celebrations Tuesday, blaring nationalist music through loudspeakers in the West Bank. Colour portraits of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and his late deputy Khalil Al Wazir hung on walls outside homes and shops.

In Gaza Strip refugee camps, children handed out flowers and balloons in the colours of the red, black, green and white Palestinian flag.

Motorists honked their horns rhythmically on Omar Al Mukhtar Street, the main commercial thoroughfare in Gaza City, as pedestrians broke into song and chanted: "We die so Palestine will live."

The army responded to Monday's ambush by sealing the Gaza

Strip where more than 750,000 Palestinians live.

The soldier slain, Sarul Trechteinboit, 42, a Soviet immigrant, was the first Israeli soldier killed by firearms in Gaza. He was the 41st Israeli to die during the uprising.

Palestinians' use of firearms has been rare in the rebellion.

In the attack, the guerrillas "hid by a gate, let the jeep pass several metres and then fired from behind them," using automatic weapons, killing one soldier and critically wounding the other, police said.

Soldiers later tore down a house about 20 metres from the gate. The army said the guerrillas are believed to have hidden in the building while laying in wait for the soldiers.

The soldiers were taken by surprise and never spotted the assailants or returned fire, police said, adding that footprints in the area indicated two or three guerrillas were involved.

There have been seven previous attacks with firearms on soldiers in Gaza but none succeeded, radio reports said. Two other Israeli soldiers were shot dead in the West Bank since the

start of the uprising.

Israel Radio said an anonymous caller to the Arabic-language department claimed responsibility for the attack in the name of Hamas, (Zeal), a fundamentalist group.

Hamas has also been blamed for the kidnappings and slayings of two other Israeli soldiers, who went missing while hitchhiking from bases earlier this year.

On the eve of the Palestinian anniversary, in Bir Zeit, a West Bank town of 3,000 flags and pictures flew from lamp posts, telephone poles and even the top of a cross on the "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Roman Catholic church.

Activists in Bir Zeit said they plan to mark the first anniversary of the Nov. 15 declaration in Algiers of an independent Palestinian state by reading the proclamation over a mosque loudspeaker and with a military-style march through the streets.

Yousef, 26, an activist, who refused to give his last name, said women's committees plan to dance the "dabka," a traditional folk dance in the streets to mark the anniversary.

Shamir in U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir began a 52-hour visit to the U.S. capital Tuesday in which tensions over setting up Middle East peace talks could test the U.S. alliance with Israel.

His schedule included meetings in his hotel suite with leaders of various U.S. Jewish organisations. Some of them have been urging Israel to be more conciliatory. Others have tried to bolster Shamir's resolve not to make territorial and other concessions before negotiations are held.

Some 200 U.S. rabbis signed a letter circulated by the American Jewish Peace Lobby urging Shamir to accept the principle — before any negotiations — that Israel should relinquish land in return for peace with the Arabs.

"Israel and its well-being are not only the concerns of the inhabitants of that country, but touch the heart and religious feeling of every Jew in the world," Rabbi Jerome Malino of Connecticut said in a statement. "We should be prepared to take the risk for peace we are so often prepared to take for war."

The administration was slow in confirming that President George Bush would see Shamir, and the atmosphere also was cool for a meeting and lunch with Secretary of State James Baker.

Those sessions Wednesday could be critical in the month-long drive by Baker to shape Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections in a way that is acceptable to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PLO has not accepted or rejected Baker's plan.

PLO approval through Egypt is considered a prerequisite for Israeli-Palestinian talks. And yet, attention remains riveted on Israel, which has bargained openly with Baker to try to fence out the PLO from meetings.

Israeli officials, divided over how to proceed, have aired their differences through a free-spirited and competitive media, while U.S. officials have made it plain they do not intend to negotiate terms of the talks indefinitely.

Privately, some have suggested that if the U.S. initiative failed the burden would be on Israel.

The 74-year-old Israeli leader is on an 11-day journey that will take him to Cincinnati, Los Angeles, New York and then Europe before returning home.

Before his departure, Shamir said he did not know if the Bush administration would respond positively to his requests for assurances. But he told Israeli television he would "insist on all the things we see as important

Hoss in cabinet-making as Aoun rattles sabres

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's new Prime Minister Salim Hoss plunged into consultations with former premiers of divided Lebanon Tuesday in an effort to seek support to bring warring factions into a government of national unity.

Hoss, appointed prime minister Monday, met fellow Sunni Muslims Rashid Solh and Amin Al Hafez, both heads of government in the 1970s. Solh headed a cabinet at the beginning of the civil war which has split the country since 1975.

Rocket-propelled grenades exploded overnight on the green line dividing mainly Muslim west Beirut from the Christian east, security sources said. No casualties were reported.

As Hoss started the consultations, defiant army general Michel Aoun warned Christian leaders against cooperation with the Muslim politicians.

"Those who take part in the Hoss' cabinet better stay in Hoss land," the independent newspaper Al Nahar quoted Aoun as saying.

Aoun, 54, a Maronite, controls most of the 800-square-

kilometre Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

Also Tuesday four Maronite parliament deputies held a meeting in the northern Batroun province, outside the area of control of Aoun's 20,000 troops, to decide whether to take part in the new government.

The four included Falangist leader George Saadeh, the main Christian negotiator in 23 days of parliamentary deliberations at Taif, Saudi Arabia, last month which produced a peace pact to end the civil war.

Fearing Aoun's wrath, most Christian legislators who took part in the Taif talks have not returned to the Christian enclave.

Parliament deputies, avoiding a threat by Aoun to shell them, met at an airbase in north Lebanon Nov. 4, ratified the Taif accord and elected Rene Muawad president.

Muawad, 64, also a Maronite, named Hoss Monday to form a national reconciliation government representing all the warring factions in Lebanon with the objective of ending the civil strife.

Hoss met Solh and Hafez in

west Beirut to seek support for his administration.

Parliamentary sources said Hoss might later meet Druze militia leader Walid Junblatt and Nabih Berri, head of the Shiite Amal militia, before forming a cabinet. The sources said the cabinet could be announced by the end of this week.

Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) criticised the choice of Hoss, whom it regards as too moderate.

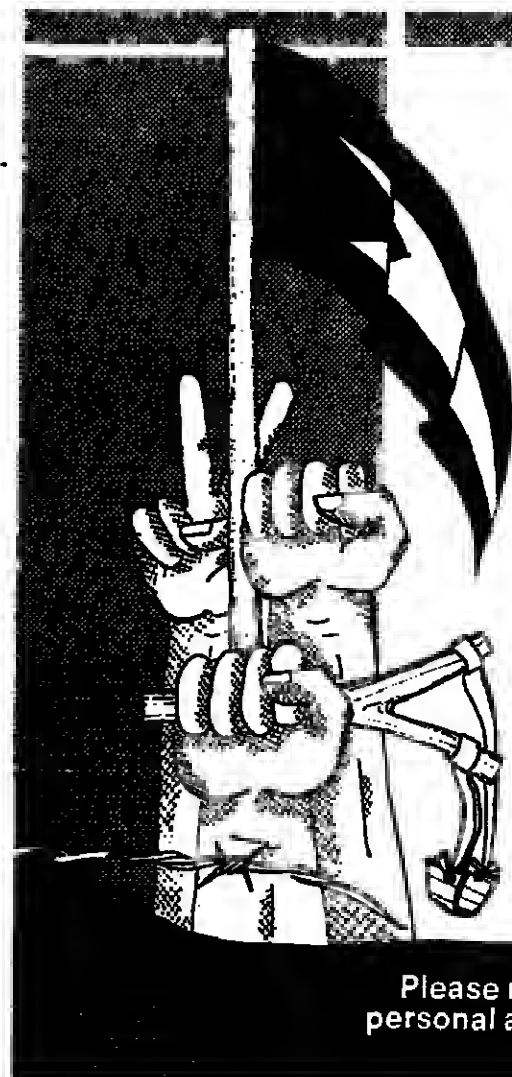
"The party sees in the appointment of Prime Minister Hoss a continuation of (his) old line hindering military confrontation with the isolationist forces," said a PSP statement referring to Aoun and other Christian hard-liners.

The PSP said it wanted major portfolios in any cabinet it joined.

The conservative newspaper Al Diyar said Christian representatives were not likely to take part in Hoss' cabinet if Aoun's opposition was not settled.

The "question of Christian participation is the main problem facing Hoss," the paper said.

(Continued on page 3)



Announcement The Embassy of the State of Palestine

The Embassy of the State of Palestine apologises for not holding a reception which was scheduled to be held at the Jerusalem Hotel on Wednesday Nov. 15, 1989 on the anniversary of proclamation of the

independent State of Palestine

owing to the current situation in our occupied homeland. The Embassy of the State of Palestine seizes this opportunity to congratulate our people in the occupied territories and abroad on the first anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the State of Palestine.

Please regard this announcement as a personal apology to all those who received invitation cards.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)

Rebels capture strategic position west of Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Anti-Communist rebels have captured an important stronghold in mountains west of the Afghan capital and repulsed a counter-attack by the Soviet-backed government to retake it, sources reported Tuesday.

A guerrilla news agency said the rebels, called Mujahideen, killed 37 soldiers who tried to dislodge them late last week.

Western diplomats, speaking in Islamabad on condition of anonymity, said the U.S.-backed insurgents are holding a key position at Pajjak, 30 kilometres west of the besieged capital.

"It illustrates that the Mujahideen are steadily chipping away at Kabul's security perimeter," said one diplomatic source.

Analysts said the Mujahideen conquest links rebel forces west and north of the city, and robs the government of an important observation post for directing artillery and rocket fire.

"There are now no significant regime positions on the west side of Kabul beyond the regime base... on the western edge of Kabul itself," said the diplomatic source.

"Media, a news agency of seven Mujahideen groups based in Pakistan, said 37 soldiers were killed and three army vehicles were destroyed in one government counter-strike.

Diplomatic sources said they also had reports of heavy losses to army troops but could not estimate figures.

Meanwhile, they said, government forces have succeeded in reopening two key supply routes feeding Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad.

However, Mujahideen have continued small unit attacks on the Salang Highway linking the capital with the Soviet border, delaying the movement of hundreds of supply vehicles that were backlogged when rebels sealed the road for two weeks in late October.

The insurgents are fighting to topple the Kabul government and establish an Islamic Republic.

The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan seized power in a 1978 military coup, sparking the rebellion. Soviet troops intervened in December 1979 to replace one pro-Moscow government with another, then fought the rebels to a stalemate before a phased withdrawal that was completed last February.

Afghanistan's major cities remain in government hands but under rebel attack. The Mujahideen control nearly all of the rugged countryside.

Moscow has continued to arm Kabul through a massive military airlift.

Rockets slam daily into Kabul, killing hundreds of people since May when this year's fighting season began in earnest.

However, fighting is expected to die down in coming weeks as winter snow blocks mountain passes and restricts guerrilla movement.

Mujahideen have refused to talk peace with Communist officials, who they view as traitors for inviting the Soviet intervention.

Sudan determined to pursue peace

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The military leadership currently in power in Sudan will continue its endeavours to reach a peaceful solution to the six-year-old civil war but will not accept any settlement which would allow for the division of the country "nor will it give up a single inch of Sudan regardless of the collaboration against us," Sudanese envoy Colonel Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, member of the Revolutionary and National Salvation Command Council of Sudan told reporters Tuesday.

At a press conference held at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan, Khalifa stressed Sudan's conviction that Israel has a hand in the escalation of conflict between the south and north of Sudan and "was directly involved in the attack on the border town of Karmuk last month."

"We have evidence... we have eyewitness reports, we have written affidavits by Sudanese citizens as well as security evidence we gathered in Ethiopia," Khalifa said.

He added that the most clear evidence so far was Ethiopia's decision to restore diplomatic ties with Israel "three days after the town of Karmuk fell" to the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Ethiopia restored diplomatic ties with Israel Nov. 3, 1989 after a break of 16 years. Ethiopia, along with 27 other African countries, severed ties with Israel following the 1973 Middle East war.

Khalifa's visit to Jordan comes as part of a comprehensive plan of the Revolutionary Command in Sudan "to acquaint leaders of the Arab, African, Islamic and the Western and Eastern world of our plans to pursue a peaceful settlement to end the bloodshed in Sudan," the colonel said.

"This is a media move to present our problem to the world and give a clear picture of the situation in our country," Khalifa said in answer to a question on the kind of support Sudan expects from world leaders visited by Sudanese envoys during the past month.

"We only expect media support," he said.

Khalifa said that the Sudanese civil war "is not a war between the north and the south, nor is it between Arabs and Africans, Christians and Muslims... It is a war that has adopted an ideology."

"If it was a war between the north and the south then why did three million Sudanese move from the south to the north rather than move to neighbouring countries?" Khalifa asked.

He added that if it was a war between Muslims and Christians then "Why are the rebels being trained in Cuba, Nicaragua, East Germany and Ethiopia? Why aren't they being trained in the Vatican or even West Germany?"

He blamed what he described as "evil powers" for the "destructive plans and policies" against Sudan, which, he said, "is rich in its people, and in its agricultural and animal resources as well as yet unearched mineral resources."

He maintained that the Revolution Command of Sudan, which assumed power after toppling the civilian government of Sadeq Al Mahdi in June 1988, "has asked all international relief agencies to extend its aid to our people in the south," as part of a three-part comprehensive plan to bring back peace to the country and rebuild its strength.

Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who led the coup, has extended on a month-by-month basis a de facto ceasefire in effect since April.

SPLA, led by army Colonel John Garang, is demanding

greater autonomy and economic reforms to improve the south which is predominantly populated by Christian and animist Sudanese.

A national conference held in Khartoum last month, in which 106 representatives of the Sudanese people participated, dealt with the grievances of the people from the different parts of the country and presented viable solutions to the war, including political dimensions.

"We have decided on a federal-type government under which separate state will be created each with its own constitutional establishment," Khalifa said. The primary benefit of this solution is that it deals realistically with "how will Sudan be ruled rather than who will rule Sudan," according to the colonel.

He said that this federation "will have a clear Sudanese fingerprint and is the safest and most successful way to deal with all political grievances."

"Chances will be given to the Sudanese people, regardless of their sect, religion or ideologies, to share in the rule of Sudan," the envoy said.

He added that this solution "is a democratic solution out of which everyone will be able to express himself and his ideologies."

The leader of Sudan, according to Khalifa, will be directly elected by the people.

The first round of peace talks between the SPLA and the Revolution Command were held in Addis Ababa two months ago, but no progress was made. Plans for a second round of talks this month were dropped after the government reported last week that the rebels had attacked and captured Karmuk. When asked if the talks between the Revolution Command and the rebels will continue, Khalifa said "they will... very soon," but he declined from setting a definite date for the talks.

Tunisian Islamic leader says security stepped up surveillance

TUNIS (R) — An Islamic leader said Tuesday that Tunisia's security forces had stepped up surveillance on him in the week since the government ruled out legislating a party based on religion.

Hamadi Jebali, one of the leading handful of Islamic activists in Tunisia, said up to five security agents at a time had been following him since last Wednesday.

"Everyone who comes to my house has to show his papers to the man at the door and whenever I go out there's a car behind with three men, one with a walkie-talkie," he told Reuters. "I protest against this violation

of the most basic human right. It's a form of intimidation and it's very irritating, this interference in my private life."

Other sources in the Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement, the Islamic group refused recognition as a political party last June, said the security forces were also closely watching at least four other Islamic leaders in Tunis.

An Interior Ministry official denied that Jebali and the others were under surveillance.

Independent eyewitnesses said a civilian car with three men inside was following Jebali Tuesday morning.

Jebali was condemned to death under former President Habib Bourguiba in 1987 on a charge of plotting to overthrow the government. He was released and later arrested after President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali took power in November 1987.

Ben Ali said in a speech on Nov. 7, the second anniversary of his presidency, that there was no place for an Islamic party because religion and politics should not mix.

Jebali said the Tunisian consulate in Paris had refused to renew the passport of Nahdha Movement leader Raheed Ghannouchi, who has been travelling in self-imposed exile since May.

Unless Ghannouchi's passport is renewed before it expires Dec. 9, he will have to choose between returning to Tunisia or taking the sensitive step of seeking political asylum, probably in France.

Jebali said the security forces broke into the office of an Islamic Students Union at the University campus in Tunis at the weekend and detained two students.

The Interior Ministry official denied anyone had been arrested.

Iran to hold parliamentary by-elections in December

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Parliamentary by-elections will be held in Iran next month in six provinces, Tehran Radio said Tuesday.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said that elections will be held Dec. 15 in the towns of Tehran, Karaj, Kashan, Kerman,

Kordkuy, Torikaman, Kuhdashi and Dure-Chegini to elect representatives for six constituencies to the 270-seat parliament.

The Majlis, or parliament, is currently dominated by radicals who oppose the liberal policies of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was elected in June.

Berlin Turks worry about future

BERLIN (AP) — The opening of the Berlin Wall showered cash on Turkish merchants down the road from Checkpoint Charlie, but West Berlin's largest minority community still feels enclosed by discrimination.

"The newsstands, the vegetable shops, the electronics stores had the business of a lifetime this weekend," said Mehmet Elmasgunes, an officer at Bamukbank in the predominantly Turkish Kreuzberg District.

It was an unexpected payoff, he said, for people who years ago moved into a rundown neighborhood.

Behind the wall, however, is a potential flood of competition for the low-paid jobs once reserved for immigrants. There may be even more demand for scarce housing, an issue already turned against foreigners by right-wing extremists.

On the Turkish side, there is frustration about being barred from the civil service and the legal profession, about the difficulty in becoming German citizens and red tape that keeps families separated.

"We have begun with taking down the worst wall, the biggest

wall, and we want to work with the German people to take down these other walls," said Husnu Ozkanli, chairman of the Turkish Community Organisation.

"The Turkish people have been here 25 years, 35 years now and we consider ourselves part of this society."

Of the 755,000 workers in West Berlin, according to government statistics, 47,000 are Turks, mostly employed in factories or low-paid service jobs. Yugoslavs, who had 15,000 jobs, are the next largest immigrant group.

These "guest workers" were welcomed in the 1960s, but since 1973 immigration has been restricted to spouses or children of workers already here.

"If I married a woman in Turkey today, she could not come for at least a year," Ozkanli said. "There are so many application procedures that are just harassment."

In local elections in January, the right-wing Republican Party blamed immigrants for Berlin's ills. One poster accused Turks of taking apartments needed by Germans. The party's share of the vote, though only 7.5 per cent, was a green light for

bigotry. "Careful, stinking Turkish pack get out of Germany, you pigs," said one note Ozkanli received after the election.

Aladdin Ozmet, a Turkish attaché in Berlin who deals with employment and benefit issues, contended that Turkish workers have little to fear from the opening of the wall.

"The Turkish workers living here are qualified, skilled workers, and they are... accustomed to the life here and to the market," said Ozmet.

"The refugees from the East Bloc countries are not yet familiar with Western technology. They would have to be re-educated to have a chance in the job market."

At Bamukbank, Elmasgunes said he believed most East Berliners would be content to visit and would not settle permanently in West Germany.

On Monday, there was hardly room to squirm among shoppers at Oka Import. A clerk said at least 2,000 radio-cassette players were sold over the weekend, and the store hired a truck Monday to go to West Germany to replenish stocks.

Chad smashes 2nd rebel base in Sudan

PARIS (R) — Chad said Tuesday its forces had smashed a second pro-Libyan guerrilla base deep inside Sudan.

The Chadian National Army (FANT), which carried out a legitimate counter-attack against Libya's Islamic Legion forces on the Chad-Sudan border, has just inflicted another severe blow to the enemy," said a Chad military communiqué, issued by the country's embassy in Paris.

"During a clean-up operation on Nov. 13, a second base of the Islamic Legion at Inosoro was completely destroyed," it said.

The embassy said Inosoro is 360 kilometres inside Sudan's Darfur region, which borders Chad.

Chad has said it killed 600 enemy troops in a 12-hour battle when it destroyed the first camp, also in Darfur, two weeks ago.

The statement said the Chad army killed 235 members of the Legion and captured 62. Chad says the Legion is a multi-national force of impoverished African immigrants press-ganged in Libya.

"With the destruction of this

logistic base of the Islamic Legion... FANT has completely put out of action the mercenary band in the service of Libya," the statement added.

Chad and Libya signed a peace accord in Algiers on Aug. 30 to end years of fighting over the disputed Aouzou Strip on their desert border.

But Chad's ambassador in France, Aliam Mi Ahmad, said Monday he believed Tripoli was more interested in releasing Libyan war prisoners in Chad than in resolving the border dispute.

U.S. considers sending envoy to present credentials to Muawad

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is considering sending its ambassador to Lebanon back on a flying visit to present his credentials to the country's new president, administration officials have said.

U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy and his staff left Beirut in early September after anti-U.S. demonstrations outside his embassy raised fears for their security.

The officials said they were examining whether it was possible for McCarthy to return in a move intended to bolster the authority of Rene Muawad, elected president of Lebanon by its parliament last week.

But they declined to speak about a possible date for security reasons.

The United States has enthusiastically backed the agreement reached after protracted negotia-

tions in Taif, Saudi Arabia, to redraw the political map of Lebanon in an effort to end 14 years of civil war there.

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher applauded the latest move in the reconciliation process, the appointment of Sunni Muslim Selim Hoss as prime minister Monday.

"We welcome the selection of Dr. Hoss as prime minister of Lebanon. We look forward to working with his government once it is formed," Boucher said.

Asked whether the U.S. embassy would now return to the city, Boucher said:

"I don't have a full analysis of the security situation. We've always said that the withdrawal was temporary. We would go back when we felt it (the embassy) could be working in safe and effective conditions."

McCarthy never presented his credentials to any Lebanese head of state because the position was effectively vacant after the previous president, Amin Gemayel, finished his term of office earlier this year.

Lebanese Christian leader Michel Aoun, who declared himself Gemayel's successor and launched a military campaign to drive Syrian troops out of Lebanon, demanded that McCarthy present credentials to him.

The United States refused to do this.

The withdrawal of U.S. diplomats came after supporters of Aoun demonstrated outside the east Beirut embassy.

Embassy personnel had previously been unable to visit mainly Muslim west Beirut because of persistent shelling and fears for their security.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Jordanian held in trafficking scheme

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A Jordanian man charged with counterfeiting and money laundering after his arrest in early October on a routine traffic stop faces a new set of federal charges, the U.S. customs service has said. Mohammad Al Asad, 35, of Houston was charged with six counts of trafficking in counterfeit labels and one count of infringement of a copyright in connection with the seizure of recording equipment in a Houston factory in late October, officials said. After his arrest earlier in October, Al Asad was charged with counterfeiting and money laundering. A police officer who pulled the Jordanian car over to the side of the road during a routine stop on Oct. 7 found \$31,616 in cash and 864 counterfeit audio cassette tapes in Al Asad's vehicle on Interstate 10 in Harrison County. The tapes featured country-western, pop and rock music by such artists as Michael Jackson. Al Asad was released on a \$25,000 bond Oct. 13. Police said he returned to Houston, where he was placed under surveillance. On Oct. 24, he was followed to a Houston factory where authorities seized the counterfeit products, customs officials said. Recording industry experts estimate the value of the seized merchandise and equipment at between \$4 million and \$6 million.

U.N. envoy returns to Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson, hoping to revive stalled Gulf peace talks with shuttle diplomacy, left for Iran Tuesday after meeting Foreign Minister Farouk Azizi. Iraqi INA News Agency said. Diplomats said Eliasson would discuss U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, the basis of a ceasefire declared in August last year, with Iranian leaders and then return for his fourth visit to Baghdad since his shuttle began last week. The ceasefire and deployment of U.N. observers along the 1,200-kilometre border are the only elements of the resolution in force. More than 100,000 prisoners of war are still held 15 months after the eight-year conflict ended. Iran insists that Iraqi troops should at once leave Iranian territory which it says they occupy, while Baghdad says priority must be given to clearing war debris from the Shatt Al Arab border waterway, its main outlet to the sea.

Bomb hits party office in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb damaged the office of the ruling Motherland Party headquarters in Istanbul Tuesday. "There was a huge bang and a lot of smoke but nobody was hurt," a secretary at the centre-right party's office said. No group has said it was responsible but similar attacks in the past have been claimed by banned left-wing groups. A second bomb exploded near a police station in Serehimni quarter overnight, causing damage but no injuries, police sources said. Over 20 bombs designed to make very loud bangs but causing little damage exploded at banks and businesses last Thursday night after the inauguration of President Turgut Ozal, the former premier and Motherland Party founder.

Turkish journalist shot

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish restaurant owner, quoted as saying that "all journalists should be shot," was arrested in connection with the shooting of a journalist in Istanbul Tuesday. The victim, Kamil Basaran, head of breaking news reports for the popular Gazete newspaper, had written an editorial condemning Halil Mergal for his reported remark. Police arrested Mergal after the shooting near the Gazete's offices. Basaran, the third member of the Gazete's staff to be shot this month, was badly wounded, the newspaper said. Mergal had made his comment to reporters accompanying a city team which wanted to inspect his restaurant near the Galata Bridge over the mouth of Istanbul's Golden Horn sea inlet, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said. Police are still searching for a Kurdish clan leader alleged to have shot dead a Gazete reporter and wounded a photographer on Nov. 7 after the Gazete claimed a popular singer he spiked his drink and forced him to have sex with her.

Iran rounds up drug traffickers

NICOSIA (AP) — Islamic revolutionary extremists rounded up 3,358 suspected drug traffickers or addicts in the previous 48 hours, Iran's state-run news agency reported Tuesday. The suspects, along with large quantities of various drugs, were seized and handed over to the authorities by members of Iran's Revolutionary Komitehs, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. In a dispatch monitored in Cyprus, the agency said according to a new law "any addict who fails to give up his dirty habit will be jailed or sent to a labour camp." The latest arrests were part of a wave of arrests of drug traffickers and addicts this year. More than 800 alleged traffickers have been executed since last December.

Poland seeks diplomatic ties with GCC

ABU DHABI (R) — Poland seeks to have diplomatic relations with all member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a Polish official was quoted Tuesday as saying. "We are making contacts with the GCC states to establish ties, the absence of which is abnormal," Krzysztof Plominski, a director at Polish Foreign Ministry, told Al-Ithad newspaper, based in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Poland has diplomatic relations with three of the six GCC states — Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE — but has yet to establish relations with the others — Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Children's programme

18:45 Reports on elections

19:00 Live transmission — basketball match (Jordan-Kuwait)

20:00 Reports on Elections

20:30 News in Arabic

21:00 Arabic series (two episodes)

21:30 News in Hebrew

22:00 News in Arabic

22:30 Empty Nest

23:00 All the Rivers Run

23:30 News in English

24:00 News in Hebrew

24:30 News in Arabic

25:00 News in English

25:30 News in Arabic

26:00 News in English

26:30 News in Arabic

27:00 News in English

27:30 News in Arabic

28:00 News in English

28:30 News in Arabic

29:00 News in English

29:30 News in Arabic

30:00 News in English

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The depression will continue to affect the country. Thus it will continue to be cloudy, cold and rainy at times.

Winds will be westerly moderate freshening at times. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with southerly fresh wind and wavy sea.

Min./max. temp. 8/13

Amman 8/13

Amman 8/13

Amman 8/13

Amman 8/13

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Qusba 675480

Dr. Khalid Klob 826919

Dr. Mohammad Al Ajam 894184

Dr. Bahjat Badr 840070

Ferdous pharmacy 773336

Al Asma pharmacy 673025

Nasrallah pharmacy 626672

Al Salem pharmacy 636750

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 63766

Jordan, Egypt probe scopes of media links

CAIRO (Petra) — Culture and Information Minister Masbuh Al Majali Tuesday discussed in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart, Safwat Al Sharif, scopes of bilateral cooperation in the area of information, in addition to cooperation within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

In a statement to Petra, Majali said he discussed with Sharif means of speeding up work on the implementation of agreements drafted at a recent meeting of the ACC information ministers held in Baghdad.

He said that he and Sharif agreed to convene a meeting of directors of radio and television stations in the four-member states of the ACC to prepare a

detailed executive plan of action for the year 1990.

Majali also said that his talks with Sharif touched upon issues of mutual concern, such as engineering cooperation, microwave linkage and aerospace cooperation.

Discussions also dealt with cooperation in the area of training radio and television staff, including broadcasters and programme producers and information exchange, according to Majali.

Majali arrived in Cairo Monday to hold talks with Sharif and to take part in an African media conference to be held in the Egyptian capital.

Later Tuesday Majali took part in the final session of the African Media Conference, which he described as "a step on the path of Arab-African dialogue." Majali stressed the need for efforts to pave the way for further Arab-African contacts through communication infrastructure in the African continent.

Majali said the earth and satellite communications between Africa and the Arab World contribute to advancing understanding and achieving rapprochement between Africa and the Arab Nation.

Recent communication breakthroughs, Majali said, have shortened the distance between various parts of the globe and converted the world into an international village providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experience.



Masbuh Al Majali

Nammar explains ACC raison d'être

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar said Monday that the establishment of the ACC was prompted by political, security and economic considerations.

In a lecture he delivered at the Business and Professional Women Club, Nammar said the three considerations were inter-related and, as such, cannot be separated from each other. He said national security and stability "are a prerequisite for achieving national economic development." However, he said, "economic cooperation and coordination cannot be achieved without political will, which hinges on the unification of political stands."

Nammar cited different political relations as reasons for the failure of all efforts made in the past to achieve Arab unity.

Nammar pointed out that the ACC was created following "the crystallisation of the political will, which was reflected in the close relations that linked the leaders of the four ACC countries."

Nammar said the ACC's formation was also prompted by economic circumstances, in the four countries; Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

These circumstances, include population density, manpower, gross national product, arable land, technical expertise, mineral resources and petrol in addition to the common historical and economic interests which the ACC member states share, he said.

Nammar said the success of the council in achieving its objectives depends on the political will and the support of the social forces in member countries, as well as their economic weight.



NOSTALGIA... His Majesty King Hussein flanked by several members of the royal family attends an official ceremony decades ago. He is (Archives photo)

Shamir in U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

and necessary, and I don't imagine the U.S. leadership would reject our proposals."

Under the proposal, talks between Israel and Palestinians would be followed by Baker meeting in Washington with foreign ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt. Afterwards, elections would be held among the 1.7 million Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and in Gaza.

In Cairo, Abdul Meguid summoned his experts on Israel Tuesday to assess the Jewish state's position.

Abdul Maguid, who has been in close contact with Washington and the PLO in the past few weeks, discussed with Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Salah Bassouni the outcome of the diplomat's talks with Israeli officials.

He later met Mohammad Al Azzazi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Israel department.

Arens, in a letter circulated at the U.N. Monday, asked the U.N. Secretary General to support Israel's election initiative.

Arens said the Israeli cabinet had decided to accept the proposal advanced by Baker, on the assumption Washington would provide assurances to meet Israel's concerns.

"I now hope to obtain your support for what could prove to be an important breakthrough in the quest for peace," Arens told Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Hoss holds consultations

(Continued from page 1)

It said Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi would try to convince Samir Geagea, leader of the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia alliance, to accept participation in Hoss' cabinet.

However, the independent daily Al Nahar said the Christian militia has decided not to take part in any government pending a solution to the current deadlock. Lebanese Forces spokesman withheld comment on the reports.

Aoun has rejected the Taif accord because it did not include a clear timetable for the withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

In a sign that Aoun is becoming internationally isolated, 32 Arab and Western diplomats Monday paid respects to Muawad.

They included a representative of Iraq, which has sent arms to Aoun's 15,000 troops.

U.S. administration officials said Washington was considering sending its ambassador to Beirut, John McCarthy, back on a brief visit to present his credentials to Muawad.

The United States pulled its staff out of east Beirut in September, saying anti-U.S. demonstration by supporters of Aoun raised fears for their safety.

Democracy in East Germany

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Helmut Haussmann announced the proposed aid package Tuesday. He did not name a figure and said the plan would be useless if East Germany did not carry out a "thorough change" of its troubled centrally planned economy.

The minister said the aid plan being offered by Bonn would include major investments in East Germany and joint ventures, as well as revamping East Germany's outdated communications and transport system.

The mass-circulation Bild newspaper Tuesday quoted Krenz as saying his scheduled talks in December with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl would be on the basis of two sovereign states.

Charter on education stresses new vision, programme of action

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Arab regional consultation conference on education started its working sessions here Tuesday and discussed a World Charter on "Education for All" and the framework for action to meet basic learning needs, that are expected to be endorsed at a 1990 world conference to be held in Thailand.

The conference began with routine procedural decisions with the selection of Jordan's minister of education, Adnan Badran, as president of the conference. Other Arab education ministers were chosen as his deputies and the secretary-general of the Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA). Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, was chosen as the conference's rapporteur.

The main objectives of the conference are to highlight the importance of basic education, to provide a platform for the exchange of expertise, research conclusions and to reach a consensus on a working framework, according to the executive secretary of the Higher Joint Committee for the world conference, Wadi'c Hadad.

The importance of these deliberations is "the fact that 75 million youngsters are illiterate, and out of 200 million adults, 600 million are illiterate and by the year 2030 the petroleum resources of this region will run out," according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional director. "This is what makes this a momentous time and adds the element of emergency to the conference," Richard Reid told the participants in his address on the first day of the working sessions.

The number of illiterates in the world today is approaching one billion, and 120 million children will not have access to school. Another dilemma is that women continue to have less access to education than men. Another dimension to the education problem is the even-widening disparities within and between nations.

"We either accept these facts, or try to do something about them," a member of the higher joint committee asserted. "We are now beginning to be increasingly concerned with placing people and the development of human potential back in the centre of the development process."

The documents, issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh, were presented to the deputies-elect at a ceremony held by Irbid Governor Jawdat Al Shoul. The governor congratulated the winners and wished them success in Parliament.

Nigel Fisher said in an address Tuesday.

According to Fisher, this consultation is an opportunity for the Arab World to influence the shape of the draft documents that will be tabled at the Thailand conference.

The world charter aims at mobilising decision-makers, and a commitment to a new vision of education in the world — "Education for All."

The charter includes articles which emphasise a number of elements in the new strategy: article one is an emphasis on basic learning needs and articles two to seven highlight a new perspective of education for all.

These articles focus on learning and achievement, multiple and flexible delivery systems of education programmes for diverse populations, and mobilisation of new resources, in addition to reinforcing the learning environment.

The charter points out that "while reading and writing are essential skills, they alone do not constitute a basic education." So, according to Fisher, "man should learn how to protect his environment, prevent common diseases, in addition to other knowledge to enable him to live in his environment and the world at large." The conference is apparently stressing that other vital needs in life such as health must be secured in order to pursue education.

Article eight focuses on equity and reduction of educational disparities between males and females and for different disadvantaged groups (like those with disabilities and poverty and those lacking basic education infrastructure in rural areas).

"These groups require

appropriate attention to make it possible for us to extend education for all," Fisher said.

Finally, articles nine and 10 stress the need for a renewed commitment and evidence of political will to achieve education for all.

The framework for action, the second part of the working documents, attempts "to forge consensus on the parameter of a global and substantial set of actions to meet basic learning needs in the years ahead."

The framework calls for action in restating the new vision, and proposes three goals and targets: — 80 per cent of all children reaching defined levels of achievement through primary education.

— The halving of 1990 adult illiteracy rates, with special emphasis on female literacy. — Vastly-expanded acquisition of a wide range of essential life skills and knowledge among youth and adults.

According to Fisher, "the heart of the framework" are the principles of action, priority action at national level and a supporting framework for action on both regional and world levels. A definite timetable for action is also included in the framework.

Fisher called upon the groups, which the consultative conference is to be divided into, to concentrate on specific Arab regional priorities or possible networks for mutual assistance within the Arab World.

The discussions continued late in the afternoon and are scheduled to continue Wednesday and conclude on Thursday with a final session, when the final recommendations would be issued. These recommendations will be linked to the world charter.

Irbid deputies-elect receive confirmation

IRBID (Petra) — The winners of Lower House of Parliament seats representing Irbid Governorate demonstrated, which contributed to the success of the election process.

One of the deputies-elect, Ahmad Al Kofahi, thanked the governor and the governorate personnel for their efforts during the election and pledged the deputies' cooperation to work towards the advancement of Jordan.

lament.

He also paid tribute to the spirit of cooperation the people of Irbid Governorate demonstrated, which contributed to the success of the election process.

One of the deputies-elect, Ahmad Al Kofahi, thanked the governor and the governorate personnel for their efforts during the election and pledged the deputies' cooperation to work towards the advancement of Jordan.

KGs — how much do they weigh in Jordan's educational system

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Little tiny tots peering through the windows of mini-buses emblazoned with names of schools have become a very common sight in Amman's streets, mostly during early morning hours to noon. Ranging from strictly English-speaking to "Arabic-only" institutions, kindergartens have mushroomed into tens of dozens, most of them set up in the last two to three years.

It is a fortune-making venture for many of their operators, while for others kindergartens symbolise a dedicated social service. For the mothers, however, they represent a much-needed facility, particularly for working mothers and those with large families.

But, how does the concept of kindergartens figure in Jordan's educational system? What segment of society can actually afford to have their children go through the preliminary/preparatory stage of entering school?

It was only in 1988 that the education decision-makers in Jordan decided that kindergartens were important enough to be given a slot in the Kingdom's education system; and now "they are being paid more attention with a view to identifying and rectifying flaws as well as ensuring that kindergartens are accessible to as many children as possible," says a senior official in the Ministry of Education.

According to Khaled Al Sheikh, director-general of the education department at the ministry, there are only two government-run kindergartens in Jordan; the rest are controlled by the private sector.

'High costs'

Undoubtedly, the private sector schools are too expensive for low-income families, with monthly fees ranging from JD

15 to JD 55, in addition to uniforms and special gear. "A low-income family will not even have JD5 to spare, let alone spending it on kindergartens," Sheikh observed. "It is only obvious then that why little boys and girls are seen running around in the streets while they should be benefiting from pre-school education."

According to Zahra Nabulsi, director of Sahera Kindergarten, only 18 per cent of Jordanian children who should be attending pre-school are actually enrolled in kindergartens. She attributes the low figure to high costs of kindergartens.

Many observers see a pronounced shortcoming on the part of the Ministry of Education. "The existing system only enables people with a reasonable above-average income to send their children to pre-school education," noted one of them. "The Ministry of Education should realise the vital need for public kindergartens in satisfying the need of a very large percentage of the population and ensuring that equality in education is extended to all strata of the society."

Even in the private sector, one can easily detect an inequitable distribution of kindergartens. Nabulsi points out that 65 per cent of the total of 542 kindergartens in Jordan are concentrated in major cities such as Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. "Two kindergartens are the maximum one will find in the village, if any at all," she noted.

But this argument is countered by another observation that even if one was to go to the villages and open kindergartens there is no guarantee that villagers could afford or would send their children there.

'Parental attitudes'

Nabulsi agrees that parental attitudes in villages leave a lot to be desired. "Most parents think that only working

mothers should send their children to kindergartens," she says.

On the other hand, others say that many kindergartens do not use textbooks to educate the children. That brings up the question: should kindergarten children be taught to read and write or be equipped with "basic social skills?"

Some housewives do not think there is any benefit in sending their children to kindergarten. "In many cases, there is no proper academic education," says one of them. "I am capable of giving my children lessons in social behaviour at home. Why should I send my children to kindergarten and pay for training in behaviour in classes?"

Nabulsi counters: "what the parents must realise is that pre-school education is just as important and complementary to education given at home by parents."

"It is very important that the child feels free, develops skills and gets an opportunity to exercise and play with other children of his or her own age," she adds.

Rules and regulations

Sheikh of the Ministry of Education points out that a set of regulations have been laid out to govern kindergartens, what they should have and what they should not. These regulations stipulate that each child should have at least one square metre of space in the classroom, and two square metres of playground space. The teacher-student ratio should be 1:20, the classrooms should be hygienic and properly ventilated and should have good educational material as well as a good playground.

Unfortunately, says Sheikh, only 20 per cent of the 542 kindergartens in Jordan abide by these regulations in all their dimensions. "Many have a teacher-student ratio of 1:30 in

cramped schoolrooms with poor-looking equipment," he added.

The process that a kindergarten goes through before it is permitted to open is labourious. A special department at the ministry scrutinises applications, an engineer checks the premises and other experts review hygiene and ventilation. Ministry of Education teams inspect furniture, equipment and other extras. For all technical purposes, only after these processes are completed and the Ministry of Education is satisfied that all regulations are observed that a license will be issued to the institution.

But, the question remains: if all these procedures are followed and observed to the letter, why then are many kindergartens in sorry-looking shape?

'Shortcomings'

An observer answers: "In principle, the rules and regulations are laid out in black and white and if followed should produce excellent institutions. But, obviously there is something wrong somewhere in ensuring that all prerequisites are met before kindergartens are licensed. Perhaps the shortcoming is in coordination among the various departments."

An expert in social work and a technical advisor to a voluntary organisation attributes the shortcomings to the heavy burdens placed on the Ministry of Education. "For the last three decades, the ministry was striving to provide school education for all through expanding facilities and buildings," said the expert, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"It also sought to provide qualified teachers, improved curricula and to maintain a balance between the increasing demand resulting from population growth and available facilities. But, it has not been able to achieve its goals, and now with



the new emphasis given to kindergartens its responsibilities are increased."

Furthermore, he adds, "although the ministry has been trying to provide increased in-service training to its teachers, the burden of expansion is heavier. The ministry is unaware of the conditions and pressing needs to improve schools and how to relate education to the needs of the children and society."

"It will take a long time before Jordan can see such changes because it is the first cycle that is important and this vital cycle is being neglected," added the expert, an ardent exponent of pre-school education. "It is the starting point for every human being," he says. "The first six years of a child's life are the period when a child forms basic attitudes and capabilities. Pre-school education should offer the child the opportunity to develop perceptual and discriminating powers, language, classification of things, motor (body movement) skills and awareness of the environment."

"If all these skills are developed, then they become the resource for intelligence for the child as he/she grows up." According to the expert, "this is where the problem

lies." "This need is not appreciated by the society as a whole," he asserts. "It is still thought that kindergartens are an extension of school where writing and arithmetics are compulsory."

Probable solution

The expert is suggesting a formula to rectify the situation. "The authorities should provide for buildings and furniture and set up government-run kindergartens," he says. "They should provide periodical grants to kindergartens to augment fees collected from students to pay for teachers' salaries and other operating expenses in addition to offering training for teachers, supervising education and providing educational materials."

The expert finds an increasing demand by villagers for kindergartens and a pressing need to improve existing institutions. "People in remote villages are demanding educational opportunities along the same lines as those available in Amman," he said.

The expert noted that projects were already taking shape around Karak in the south, but said "I fear that the pressure is getting too heavy to handle elsewhere."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Muhammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolor paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition on Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre, the Exhibition Hall.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by the Symphony Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM

- ★ A symposium on "The Political Writing in Jordanian Journalism" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1977.

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The neglected but vital element

THE PEOPLE of Israel have revealed their true colour in a poll conducted by an Israeli public opinion institute and published in the Haaretz daily this week confirming that no less than 52 per cent of Israelis entertain the thought of "transferring" the Palestinian people under occupation to neighbouring Arab countries. In this vein, it has not escaped the Arab mind that the tens of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to arrive in Israel could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israelis — government and people — are thinking about the unthinkable and are prepared to go as far as evicting the Palestinians from the occupied territories in order to make room for the immigrants from the Soviet Union. What adds insult to injury is that such Israeli thoughts are veiled with a threat that unless the Arab parties could be stamped into accepting the Israeli version of a solution to the Palestinian problem, the transfer of all Palestinian people from the occupied territories would become imminent.

Accordingly, it becomes the primary responsibility of Moscow to put a hold on all plans to allow mass Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel or any other country for that matter unless and until Israel demonstrates by deed a willingness to resolve the Middle East conflicts on the bases of international resolutions and norms.

It is also the primary responsibility of the Palestinian party and the rest of the Arab World to weigh their operational options vis-a-vis their conflicts with Israel and make the necessary logical conclusions and decisions. The existing incoherent policies and continued vacillation by the Arab side on what to do next will obviously play into the hands of the Israelis, particularly the extremists among them who have grown in strength in recent months. And, at a time when the glorious Palestinian intifada has awakened the international conscience to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under occupation and rekindled the faith, confidence of self-reliance among the struggling Palestinians to take their future into their own hands, Israeli public opinion appears to have hardened and turned more extreme.

Of course, part of the problem is that even the Palestinian side is not speaking with one tongue. The same goes for the Arab countries with or without summit conferences. Meanwhile, Israeli public opinion is grossly neglected and the Arab side keeps on conducting its policies over the conflict with Israel without the due attention being given to the need to cultivate Israeli public opinion in favour of just peace and mutual accommodation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i as well as the rest of the Jordanian dailies on Tuesday gave prominence to His Majesty King Hussein's birthday anniversary paying tribute in their editorials and opinion columns to his endeavours over the past four decades to build up his country and serve his nation. The paper said that the Jordanian family should congratulate itself on this occasion and wish the leader continued happiness and continued efforts to maintain prosperity for his country and for his Arab Nation. The paper recalled the immense efforts exerted by the monarch over the past years and his exemplary leadership that turned Jordan into a modern state and an oasis of stability and security in a turbulent Middle East. The past years witnessed numerous challenges which the King had been able to overcome and to lead his people towards successes, the paper noted. It said the King crowned his services by paving the ground for his countrymen to return to parliamentary life so that they can take part in the construction of their country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the water issue in Jordan and calls on Jordanian citizens to be careful and economise in their use of water resources. Sakah Abdul Samad says that water problems are troubling various countries in the Middle East in view of projections that the end of the present century will witness a water shortage and probably conflicts over the water resources. The writer says that the government is to be commended for its continued efforts to make available sufficient water supplies for all regions in the Kingdom but all citizens are called on to contribute to the process by economising and properly using the limited resources so that the country will not be faced by a chronic crisis. The socio-economic development in Jordan and the population growth are both exerting continued pressure on the government and the water resources of this country, a situation which calls for more care and more planning on the part of government and people, says the writer. The coming winter season, Abdul Samad notes, should not tempt the citizens to waste water supplies in the belief that rain is coming and the artesian wells will be replenished once again.

Al Dustour daily said that Jordanians are filled with delight and pride over the King's birthday Tuesday and are more and more optimistic about their future. The paper said that the King's birthday coincided with the crowning of his success in re-introducing parliamentary life in the country, a process which it said would no doubt enhance the meaning and the practice of democracy in Jordan. The paper said on this occasion the Jordanian citizens recall the achievements of King Hussein over the past years and his great endeavours to serve his people with all his strength. The paper wished the King continued happiness and long life full of accomplishments and marked by success.

The religious imperative for Middle East peace

By Canon Michael P. Hamilton

IF I had been born in Arabia and felt God's presence, I would have become a Muslim. If I had been born in Tel Aviv or a European ghetto I would know God as a Jew. I happen to have been born in Ireland, in the troubled city of Belfast where two communities have long claimed rights to the same land. I grew up there and, when God called me, it was natural for me to be Christian. I believe I worship the same God as my Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters, and with them I also hope and work for God's peace in the world. Two other personal references may help you to understand my thinking: my grandfather was Jewish and I served in the British army in Palestine in 1947 and 1948. Before I left Haifa I was invited to serve in the forthcoming war by Arab friends to repel the invaders, and by Israeli friends to defend their new state.

Diversity and prejudice

God chose to create the human family with great diversity. Differing in racial and cultural characteristics, we still share a common human nature. We all are a mixture of good and bad, selfishness and virtue and, in spite of our imperfections, we all are cherished by God who wishes us well and desires our common peace. I suggest this belief has the important political corollary that peace is really possible, and that our differences can enrich rather than divide us. In contradiction to much secular political theory, we believers claim that the fulfillment of the individual is not, in principle, at odds with the welfare of the state, nor that the security of one nation is necessarily in conflict with the enlightened, national self-interest of

others. The price of peace is not oppression, but rather the task of gaining and implementing a shared view of freedom and justice; because with God's guidance peace is possible. There are always grounds for hope and a reason to work for its realisation.

I remember when I returned to work in Belfast in 1986 I attended a large, Protestant church gathering where there was a discussion on community relations. This was a euphemism for how they were to get along with the Catholic Nationalists. Speeches were in generalities and no one had the courage to address the issue directly, for they harboured prejudices and idols they did not wish to acknowledge publicly. At last an older politician rose: "We all want peace and justice — but not at any price!" His prejudice was revealed — the preservation of Protestant political ascendancy which was more important to him than either peace or justice. To my dismay this uncompromising bigot was applauded.

There are parallels between the behaviour of that stubborn politician and the hard-line posture of Israel's Prime Minister Shamir. The misuse of majority rule by Protestants vis-a-vis Catholics is similar to the deprivation of the civil rights of Palestinians by Israelis. We are all members of the one human family and, for peace to prevail, we must all be able to participate freely in the political arena and all have adequate access to the natural resources of the world which God created for us.

Theological perspectives

The doctrine of creation raises the role of theology itself. By this term I mean a coherent and inclusive understanding of one's religion, how it came to be and how it applies to the world in which one lives. The Israelis, torn

between secularism, orthodoxy and various hues of conservatism, seem to me to lack a vision for their own religious and political future which extends beyond Zionism. They need a theological perspective which makes constructive use of Jewish experience in the Holocaust. But today many Jews speak of the Holocaust as if they alone were its victims, ignoring the millions of others who also suffered and died. While the Jews suffered the most, their feelings of exclusivity isolate them from the wider world of shared grief and sympathy. Though the desire of Israelis to prove their strength, in contrast to Jewish defencelessness against the Nazis, may explain their misuse of military power, it does not excuse it any more than the anger of Arabs against their attempts to destroy Israel.

I believe strongly in the need for and support of the state of Israel. I danced in Haifa in 1947 when the United Nations recognised Israel as a new state. But I am also reminded that the Old Testament promises of God to provide a home for the Jews were conditional on their obedience to the letter and spirit of the Mosaic law and the prophets. Two scriptural quotes illustrate this: Deuteronomy, Chapter 30: "If you obey the commandments of the Lord... the Lord will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of. But if your heart turns away... you shall not live long in the land."

2 Esdras, Chapter 14: "The land was given to you... but your fathers committed iniquity... and because the Most High is a righteous judge in due time he took from you what he had given."

I find no way to justify on religious, nor on long-term pragmatic grounds, the way Israelis have treated Palestinians. Let me quote an Israeli source, Abba Eban:

"The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza cannot vote or be elected to anything, have no judicial control over the government that rules their lives, have no appeal against the judgments of military courts, are not free to leave their land with assurances of the right to return, are not immune, as are their Jewish neighbours from such penalties as expulsion or the blowing up of homes or administrative detention, and do not possess the same economic and social conditions of their immediate Jewish neighbours."

Censorship, the closing of schools, deprivation of civil rights, appropriation of land, restriction of water supplies, imprisonment without trial, torture, deportation and now the brutality of the army in dealing with the intifada are cruelties which are corrupting Israel as well as persecuting Palestinians. The Israeli Jews desperately need a theological revival that produces repentance, reform and justice for their neighbours. It is out of concern for Israel that we should so persuade them.

Moral responsibilities

It is about time I began to criticise the limits of the theology and behaviour of Christians. And I suspect we deserve the greatest condemnation. The Crusades, the Inquisition, the pogroms, Western imperialism and the terrible climax of the Holocaust — all these horrors emanated from the West, and many of them were justified theologically by Christians.

And we American Christians have not sought the truth, all the truth, about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Such knowledge could free us from the bias of propaganda. American policy in

the Middle East, often uncritically hailed by evangelicals, has been destructive at times and negligent at others. Americans, because of the large grants we make to support Israel, bear moral responsibility for how that money is spent. Do we really want our money to support new settlements and the army of occupation?

The main-line Protestant denominations have been relatively enlightened politically in calling for the security of Israel, the condemnation of abuses of human rights, and the establishment of an independent state for the Palestinians. But we have done little yet to transform our pronouncements into a political force. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops published a comprehensive draft report on the Middle East in October of this year. I hope it will contribute to a better public understanding. Methodists are now considering proposals for reducing assistance to Israel. Eisenhower, joining with all voting members of the United Nations, condemned Israel's continuing occupation of the Sinai during the Suez crisis, and then threatened sanctions; Israel withdrew. The time is ripe for us to reflect on that experience and to discuss symbolic and other measures to influence Israeli policies we cannot now morally support.

Reconciliation

The implications of one doctrine flow into another, and the dynamic of reconciliation is a central one for Christians and calls to mind a number of applications. Christians believe that God has reconciled us humans to himself in spite of our sins. Everyone, of whatever religious faith or none, know from experience that the cost of restoring broken rela-

tions always involves suffering and sacrifice.

In Northern Ireland Catholics and Protestants both have a measure of justice in their causes and both fear a future they cannot control. They have suffered greatly down the years and have hurt each other badly. Too few of them raise their eyes above their own wounds to recognise the injuries they have inflicted upon the other. Is this not also like the insensitivity of many Israelis and Palestinians? Jerusalem and Belfast are cities under judgment. If you wish to test the spiritual and political maturity of a people, ask how they treat their neighbours and adversaries.

Maxims for peacemakers

Let me close with some things we ought to know:

— To criticise Israel is not to be anti-Semitic. To criticise an Israeli government is not to be anti-Israel. To criticise the Palestine Liberation Organisation or Arafat is not to be anti-Arab. — Terrorism is counter-productive and always wrong. Compared to non-violent protest, it poisons the atmosphere for mutual understanding and degrades the cause it represents. — As we work for peace Americans must hang on faithfully to the hands of both Israelis and Palestinians, cherish and respect them both for whatever happens.

— Finally, God is sovereign and his will is eventually accomplished. God surprises us by bringing good out of evil, joy out of sadness, freedom out of bondage. Jews know this from the Exodus, Christians from the Resurrection and Muslims from the Hijra. The Holocaust was followed by the state of Israel. What will come after the intifada? — Middle East International, London.

Warsaw Pact could serve as stabiliser

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — East Germany's opening of its borders with the West could hasten the end of the old-style Warsaw Pact, but the Communist alliance may have found a new role as guarantor of security in an age of change. From East and West, the seven-nation East European grouping is under pressure to scrap its former images as a tool of Soviet military policy, take on a more political colouring and reflect the rapid reforms under way in the region.

But neither East nor West is in any hurry to see the disappearance of the pact, which groups the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. Poland called for changes at a pact foreign ministers' meeting in Warsaw last month. This week, a senior Polish foreign ministry official, Jerzy Nowak, said it should drop attempts at "monolithic unity" and take account of members' differing views.

Many Western experts agree. "The pact is going to have to look at a new sort of relationship between the Soviet Union and its members," says John Roper of Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs. But even as the shift towards Western-style democracy in Poland, Hungary and now East Germany weakens the ideological glue of Communism that once held the pact together, Westerners are beginning to say the alliance may have its uses after all.

Once, they branded it as a Soviet-dominated military machine poised either to strike against Western Europe or to turn inwards and crush dissent in one of its member states. Now the tune is different.

"At the moment the Warsaw Pact is a stabilising influence in Eastern Europe. The fact that there is such an organisation makes it more difficult for anyone to take action which would spill over onto us (the West)," says Colonel Andrew Duncan of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Western experts and diplomats commented that both Poland and Hungary had said they intended to stay in the pact for the time being, and that the wrath of the East Germans seemed so far to be directed against their own leaders, not the Soviets.

By contrast with previous upheavals in Eastern Europe, the Kremlin under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has been seen

as promoting reforms, not trying to crush them.

"I think that people in Eastern Europe will be sufficiently mature to see that the Warsaw Pact is a necessary insurance policy for the Soviet Union in a period of transition," Roper said.

In case the point has been lost on East Germany, host to 380,000 Soviet troops, Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov stressed on Nov. 9 that whatever government held power in East Berlin, "international obligations" remained.

On Nov. 10, Gerasimov warned sharply against any move towards German reunification, a development which would make nonsense of the present division between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

These concerns are to some extent shared by Western officials who see the key to reducing tensions in Europe in arms cuts like those being negotiated by the two blocs at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna.

Western diplomats said they did not see developments in East Germany affecting these talks, which are on course for an agreement, probably in the second half of next year, to sharply reduce troops and non-nuclear weaponry in Europe.

They said, however, that such an agreement could shore up NATO and the pact. "The structure of the treaty is based on the existence of two groups of states," one said. "CFE entrenches the notion of two groupings." A fresh round of CFE talks opened Nov. 9.

Beyond that agreement, Western diplomats said they believed Moscow was looking towards its vision of a "common European house," a concept they expected Gorbachev to push at a European security conference in Helsinki in 1992.

They said Gorbachev appeared to envisage this primarily as a means of improving trade links, and especially doing away with curbs on high technology exports to the East, but would like to keep the shells of the two alliances within the "house."

The Soviet Union itself has repeatedly said its ultimate aim is to dispense with the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

The dramatic changes in East Germany could lead Gorbachev to try to persuade U.S. President George Bush, when they meet aboard warships off Malta next month, that there was no time to lose in making the common house a reality, the diplomats said.



For many South African blacks, Communism retains an allure

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — While many Communist leaders in other countries are grappling with public discontent, the outlawed South African Communist Party is enjoying a surge of publicity and support.

Following President F.W. de Klerk's decision to ease restrictions on anti-government protest, the Communists' symbols and rhetoric have emerged from the political underground into the media spotlight.

At a mass rally last month for freed leaders of the African National Congress guerrilla movement, the Communist Party's red flag and the ANC's gold, green and black banner were given equal prominence as huge backdrops to the speakers' podium.

A roar came from the mostly black crowd of more than 70,000 when a message was read from the party's general secretary, Joe Slovo, an exiled white lawyer depicted by the government as a mastermind of terrorist attacks. The rally's keynote speech, delivered by senior ANC leader Walter Sisulu, ended with an unmistakable message.

"Long live the ANC. Long live our alliance with the South African Communist Party," said Sisulu, 77. "Long live the working class movement."

The party's new stature comes at a time when its counterparts are in varying degrees of retreat not only in Eastern Europe, but

also in Africa. The trend among leftist governments on the continent is to move away from dogmatic Marxism-Leninism and seek expanded economic ties with the West.

But in South Africa, Communism holds a particular appeal for sections of the disenfranchised black majority who view capitalism as a partner of apartheid.

The Communist Party "retains a romantic mystique... to the young lions who are searching for a revolutionary alternative to the status quo. It has a vision and an ideological coherence," said a recent analysis in the weekly Mail, an anti-apartheid newspaper.

Some commentators have suggested that this mystique could be lessened if the government lifted the ban on the party and let its leaders compete openly in the ideological marketplace. As yet, there has been no sign this might happen.

The party has not issued a detailed platform saying what its policies would be if it took power alone or in a coalition. It still apparently sticks to orthodox Marxism-Leninism, as opposed to the more moderate versions of Communism and Socialism that have appeared elsewhere. But many believe most of the party's supporters in South Africa support it simply as an anti-capitalist, anti-apartheid symbol, rather than support it out of detailed familiarity with its ideology.

Some anti-apartheid church leaders have expressed dismay that Communist banners were displayed at recent protest mar-

ches which they led. Yet many activist clergymen uneasy with Communism's atheism are sympathetic to the ANC, which uses as its anthem a moving hymn entitled "God bless Africa."

The alliance between the ANC and the Communists dates back to the early 1920s, when both campaigned on behalf of black workers. The Communist Party was banned in 1950, and the ANC in 1960, and there has been extensive overlapping within the exiled leadership of the two organisations.

In 1986, the U.S. State Department estimated that about half of the ANC's executive committee members were Communists.

Govan Mbeki, one of the released ANC leaders honoured at the mass rally, said in his speech that the ANC-Communist alliance has been a prime target of the South African government and "its supporters in the imperialist countries."

He declared that the alliance "is going to continue until apartheid... is eliminated."

"Let me state it unequivocally," said Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok in a speech Nov. 2. "Communism is unacceptable to me, it is unacceptable to the South African government and the large majority of people in our country."

Few details about the Communist Party, including its size and the composition of its politburo, are known. The ANC operates clandestinely inside South Africa, and its guerrillas periodically are arrested, but there has

been no evidence of comparable internal activity by the Communists.

The most recent policy statement issued by the party takes a more hard-line stance than the ANC on the possibility negotiations with the government.

"Seizure of power will be the product of escalating and progressively merging mass political and military struggle, with the likelihood of culminating in an insurrection," said document adopted at a party congress earlier this year. "We are not engaged in a struggle whose objective is merely to generate sufficient pressure to bring the other side to the bargaining table."

Stanley Uys, a South African political writer based in London, recently attended a conference in West Germany involving South African, Western and Soviet political experts.

He wrote afterward that participants "asked themselves: 'What impact have the failures of Socialism, not only in Africa but throughout the Socialist world, had on the Socialists and Marxists in the ANC?'"

"The answer seemed to be — none at all," Uys wrote. "Their rejection of capitalism is not based on a rational cost-benefit analysis. It is predominantly an emotional response, deeply embedded in their rejection of apartheid."

He concluded that South Africa's Socialists "are insisting on their right to make their own mistakes."

JPH, in USA

Features

France's romantic image shattered by two million wife-beaters

By Andrea Peirce
Reuters

PARIS — The image of France as the cradle of romance still lingers abroad. But at home, the government estimates that in one out of every 10 households men beat, rape or otherwise molest their wives.

Estimating that there are at least two million battered women in France, the government last week launched the country's first-ever official campaign to expose their plight.

In doing so, it was prying open the door to a secret tightly guarded for generations.

Alexander Dumas, who wrote the 19th-century epic "The Three Musketeers," once likened French women to steak, saying the harder you beat them, the more tender they become.

Women's rights minister Michele Andre said last week: "If a man beats a woman on the street, someone will complain to the Animal Protection Society. But if a man beats his wife in the street, no one moves."

"The numbers are shocking. In this year when we commemorate the 200th anniversary of our human rights charter, it was high time to resurrect the dignity of women," Andre told a press conference.

The government's estimates on the number of men alleged to beat their wives are based on the number of pleas for help received by police and by women's shelters, officials say.

Though officials say both rich and poor women are affected, shame and traditional French reserve have kept the problem quietly simmering behind closed doors.

"In France we don't talk about our married life," said a 25-year-old woman who endured two years of beatings from an alcoholic husband before deciding to leave. "You can't confide in your friends; your neighbours or anyone."

But city police say 60 per cent of the calls they field are cries of distress from women molested by their male companions.

As is often the case with rape, however, victims say the woman rather than the man is systematically blamed.

"People asked why I didn't just walk out, if I was a masochist or something," said the 25-year-old, who asked not to be named. "Everything was my fault. I was so humiliated. I lost my self-respect."

When she finally fled, leaving behind her hometown and friends, she found few places to turn for help. Simply knowing whom to contact in the poorly-coordinated welfare network turned out to be a challenge.

"There just isn't enough information," said a 27-year-old mother of two who planned her escape for more than two years. "I tried to leave twice but it didn't work."

Private support groups, like those in the United States and Britain running hostels where

women and their children can live for several months, say they cannot handle the number of women in need.

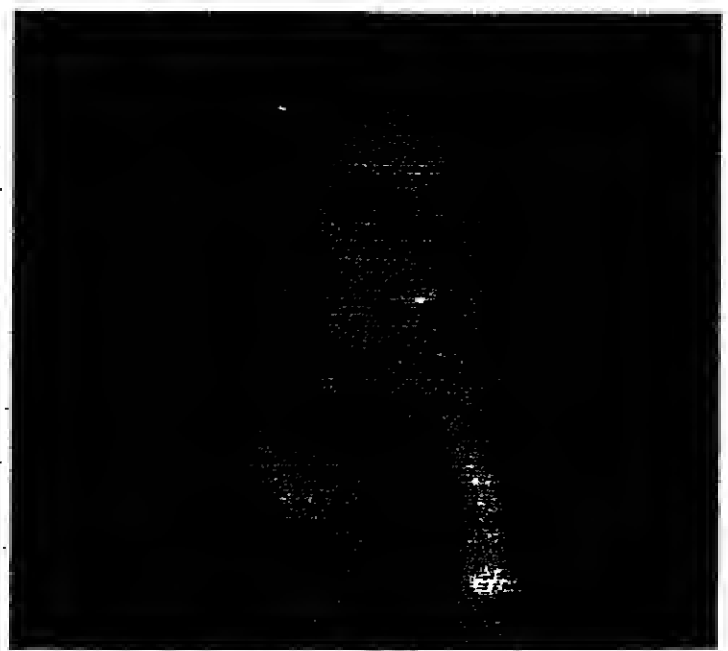
The government hopes to combat these gaps through a national campaign of TV advertisements, posters and films that will aggressively dramatise the problem and tell people where they can go for legal help.

A national hotline is also being set up — but only for the three weeks of the campaign, unless extra funding is found.

At a shelter in a working-class Paris suburb, a group of women who escaped from the daily horrors of domestic violence — one after 17 years of physical abuse — said the campaign would at least break the silence.

But the law itself also needs to be revised, they said.

Today, French law fails to address specifically the problem of violence in the home. The



B.B. once the symbol of French women, but does she really represent them?

wife-beater faces prosecution only in the bloodiest of cases, and it is almost always up to the victim to bring him before the courts.

The government, faced with complaints that battered women generally find themselves not on the street when legal proceedings start, is drafting legislation to give the victims first rights to stay in the family home.

Though the cycle of domestic violence has persisted unrevealed for decades, feminists say it may be broken by the financial inde-

By Rosalind Mandine
(USIA Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON — A more personal side to achieving peace between Palestinians and Jews in the Middle East was presented November 9 at a briefing given by two distinguished Israeli women — one an Orthodox Jew and the other an Arab who is Muslim.

Leah Shakkdiel and Dr. Mariam Mar'i shared their experiences and thoughts on peace and coexistence during a press briefing sponsored by the New Israel Fund and Joyce R. Starr Associates, a foreign policy research firm.

Shakkdiel is a member of the religious council in Yeroham, a town in the Negev, and is the first woman in Israeli history to hold such a position. She teaches Judaism and Hebrew in Yeroham and is a leading advocate of improved education, economic development and civil rights of neighbouring Bedouin citizens.

Dr. Mar'i is the only Arab woman professor at Haifa University, where she specializes in early childhood development. She is the co-chair of "Partnership," an organisation based in Haifa that promotes Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel and a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Arab women.

Dr. Mar'i began her talk with personal reminiscences on the

Two women, one land

difficulties growing up with two conflicting identities — being a Palestinian and an Israeli — and of the separation of her family after the 1948 war. Although many Palestinians felt these conflicts and difficulties there was a "passive reaction" to these problems, Mar'i said. Even as a child, she felt the need to "bring about a change."

Mar'i related an incident when she had mailed a letter to then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, "telling him of the agony of her family." The letter never got to the prime minister, however, because her postman, fearing the trouble it might cause, never sent it through. This incident troubled Mar'i because it illustrated the fear of expressing oneself, she said.

The fear of expressing one's beliefs is at the core of the problems between Jews and Palestinians, Mar'i stressed. Palestinians must feel they can express their feelings without having to be overly sensitive to the feelings of Jews, she said. "Keeping my knowledge to myself, and not sharing it — it is disgraceful to me and to others." In order for Jews and Palestinians to trust and respect each other, they must share their opinions even if it is painful, she underscored.

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overly sensitive to the feelings of Jews, she said. "Keeping my knowledge to myself, and not sharing it — it is disgraceful to me and to others." In order for Jews and Palestinians to trust and respect each other, they must share their opinions even if it is painful, she underscored.

"Our problem is not social, it is political," she said. "The problem is in accepting the fact that on 'learning to share the land.'"

Shakkdiel said that many Israelis picture a society "which is Jewish, a male society, an Ashkenazi society. We have a hard time expanding our consciousness to a society which is men and women, Ashkenazi and Sephardi and Jewish and Arab."

"The Jewish state is in the Middle East and will be forever surrounded by Arab countries. Peace is an imperative if we want to survive in that part of the world," she stressed.

Shakkdiel also spoke of the need for understanding and acceptance between Palestinians and Jews. It is "self-destructive to deny the existence of the Palestinian people," she said. Respecting and accepting Palestinians "as full human beings, as having national aspirations and opinions that you might not like" is necessary to find a way "to promote the welfare of both parties."

"Finally, what we are talking about is a two-state solution," she said.

Asked how to bring about the changes in attitudes and perceptions, Shakkdiel said there is much work to be done in education. De-stereotyping and creating a broader concept of society in Israel is important, she noted. She pointed out that there is an openness in the study of Judaism and said "we need to apply the same openness in the peace issue."

Africa becoming heroin conduit

By Chege Mbitiri
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Iran's revolution and the war in neighbouring Afghanistan have turned Africa into a major smuggling route for Southwest Asian heroin.

"They (Africans) have made the traffic veritably intercontinental, causing a serious problem," says Interpol, the International Police Organisation based in Lyons, France.

The money is good. The wholesale price of a kilogramme of pure heroin is about \$150,000, says a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent based in Cairo, Egypt.

Diluted and peddled on the streets of New York, London or Paris, a kilogramme of the narcotics can fetch up to \$1 million.

Western Europe is the destination of most of the heroin routed through Africa from Pakistan and Afghanistan, although some is shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to North America.

Most of the heroin smuggled into the United States is believed to originate in the opium poppy fields of Southeast Asia, particularly Laos, and takes a different route to market.

Interpol says it has no estimate of the amount of heroin moving through Africa, but has statistics suggesting it has risen sharply in recent years.

The agency says authorities in Pakistan, India, Africa and Europe arrested 236 Africans caught with 528 kilogrammes of heroin last year.

Interpol figures for 1984 show the arrests of only 11 Africans carrying 48 kilogrammes of heroin in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Traditionally, Southwest Asian narcotics smuggled heroin to Europe overland through Iran, Turkey and the Balkan countries. Some was diverted to India and Pakistan and later smuggled to Europe by air or sea.

However, the overland route was disrupted by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and a strict anti-narcotics campaign begun by Iran's Islamic leaders.

With their traditional route blocked, traffickers turned to Africa.

Sri Lankans were first. But by 1984, Africans were not only investing in what a Tanzanian newspaper recently called a "quick and big money business," but also hiring their own couriers.

African governments were caught lacking the know-how to fight the traffickers.

"It was a new crime for them, and they didn't know what to do," said a Western diplomat based in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Peter Masemba, head of Kenya's anti-narcotics squad, agrees. "At first we didn't know what we were looking for," he said.

In an effort to stop the heroin from reaching their streets, Western governments, especially the United States and Britain, are helping the African nations.

In September, Washington sent Thomas Pickering, its ambassador to the United Nations, to prod Nigerians to renew an agreement under which the United States assists the west African nation's anti-drug effort. The agreement was signed in Washington soon after that.

A month later Britain and Nigeria signed a similar pact.

Interpol figures show the majority of the traffickers are Nigerians, Ghanaians, Tanzanians, Malians and Gambians.

"But no African nation is unaffected by the trafficking of southwest Asia heroin," said Joseph Fortier, head of Interpol's drugs sub-division.

The heroin enters Africa by air and sea mainly through eastern countries, with Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia favoured because of frequent connecting flights to West

Africa.

In West Africa, the drug is repackaged and carried by individual couriers or hidden in freight shipments to Western Europe or North America.

Interpol says the smugglers use all major airports in Western Europe. However, an enterprising few have slipped through East Bloc airports, including Moscow, East Berlin and Warsaw.

The seriousness of the problem was underlined in June at an Interpol-sponsored, three-day meeting in Nairobi. Narcotics agents from 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America attended the closed-door meeting.

"We concluded the situation was increasingly getting worse," said an African participant who declined to be identified further.

"We also felt African governments can't fight the drugs menace alone. We need assistance."

Legislation in most African countries doesn't offer much of a deterrent, said the DEA agent in Cairo. Punishment for drug trafficking can be as little as a month's imprisonment or a \$500 fine.

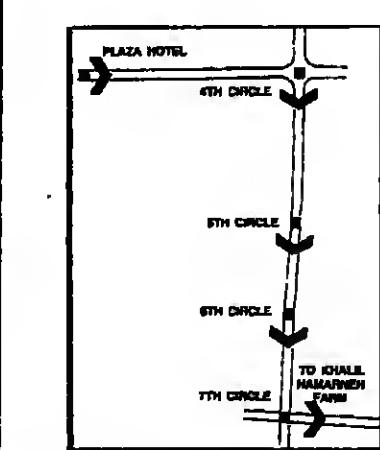
Al Unger, a state department spokesman in Washington, said the United States spent at least \$124,000 in 1987 and 1988 to help fight the trafficking.

The money bought vehicles, communications and drug detection supplies, including sniffer dogs, and paid for the training of



Third Charity March

in Amman on Friday, November 17th, 1989



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Lebanese lira gains on wide speculation

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Austria gives 5,000 tickets to E. Germany

LONDON (AP) — Austrian soccer authorities have responded to the opening of East Germany's border with the West by giving its East bloc neighbor 5,000 tickets for a World Cup game in Vienna, officials said Monday.

A spokesman for the world body soccer, FIFA, said the Austrians had "acted very quickly" to hand over the tickets to the East German soccer federation for distribution for Wednesday night's crucial group 3 qualifying match between the two nations.

"We did not anticipate this situation," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said. "In the past, no tickets were available" for East Germans to attend games in the West.

Fans of away teams normally are given a percentage of tickets for all international games under FIFA's jurisdiction.

Tognoni said the problem now was to stop thousands more East Germans converging on Vienna for the group 3 game which will decide which, if either, of the two nations advances to the World Cup finals in Italy next June.

"We have sent a telex to the East German soccer federation asking it to make a public appeal in the press that those without tickets do not enter the stadium," Tognoni said in a telephone interview. "We just don't know how many East Germans will want to go."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ONE FOR THE PRICE OF TWO

Neither vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 6
♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ A 9

EAST
♠ 7 3 2
♥ K J 9 5 2
♦ Q 10 6 3
♣ K 8 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ A 6 4
♦ K 4 5
♣ 7 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

It is sometimes very difficult not to take tricks when the opportunity presents itself. On occasion, though, it can be very costly to grab them.

The auction was routine. With a balanced hand of sound opening-bid strength facing an announced opening bid, North had an easy raise to three no trump.

West made the unusual lead of a spade (we find fourth-best of your

longest and strongest to be more effective in the long run). Declarer won in hand and, with eight fast tricks available, decided to try for the ninth in hearts. She cashed the ace and continued the suit to learn the bad news when West pitched a diamond on the second round. East won cheaply and shifted to the queen of clubs, continuing the suit when declarer held up.

Reading the hand perfectly, declarer cashed her remaining spade tricks as East discarded a heart and West a club. She returned to hand with the king of diamonds and exited with her last club. East will win. Since declarer must protect against East's hearts, declarer has to discard a diamond from the board on this trick. So East simply exits with a diamond to dummy's now bare ace and wins the last two tricks with his king-jack of hearts—down one.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1. Relent
2. Beauty parlor
3. Mountain
4. USSR
5. Investigate
6. Fr. composer
7. Unbalanced
8. Assault
9. Hunger
10. Mountains
11. USSR
12. Wornip
13. Acne
14. eruptions
15. Instant
16. Boundaries
17. A. Chaplin
18. Bank deal
19. Pungent
20. Country
21. monogram
22. Embarrassed
23. Beverage
24. Kingly
25. Olive genus
26. Lige
27. Soothing
28. More shrewd
29. Factual
30. Marriage
31. Vigilant
32. Sandwich
33. Tumble
34. Upright
35. Thin Man's dog
36. Male pants
37. Be in the van
38. Actress
39. Patricia
40. Member
41. Camera eye

DOWN

1. Fabricated
2. Essayist
3. Endure
4. One to one
5. File and starts
6. Melodies
7. Laze
8. Kinome bek
9. Bank
10. Sticker?
11. Boice — FL
12. Vigilant
13. Bump
14. Design
15. Open porch
16. Metallic element
17. Multitools
18. year (old)
19. Robert or Alan
20. Slave
21. first or second
22. Group of eight
23. Wrath
24. Snipe
25. Strike one as
26. "An apple"
27. "Twelve"
28. Night "duke"
29. Air. river
30. Coward
31. Snipe
32. Track
33. Kharitoun's
34. land
35. Lorraine
36. flavoring
37. View
38. Outspoken
39. Uprize
40. Snaffle
41. Small boat
42. Fit to —
43. School VIP
44. Bookmaker's
45. quote
46. Household members
47. Snaffle
48. Entirety

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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7. Unbalanced
8. Assault
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Prospects for joint Olympic games in Berlin get boost

By Adrian Warner
Reuter

BONN — The crumbling of the Berlin Wall has given a major boost to hopes that East and West Berlin might stage the Olympic games together in 2004, leading sports officials said on Monday.

West Germany already planned to put the city on top of its list of summer games candidates if the East-West German political situation made a joint games feasible.

The political upheavals in East Germany have transformed what were just hopeful dreams a few months ago into a realistic possibility, officials said.

Berlin last staged the games in 1936 when black American Jesse Owens won four gold medals and upstaged what Hitler had intended as a showcase for his notions of Aryan supremacy.

"The recent developments have certainly put wind in the sails of the idea of East and West Berlin holding the games, West

Germany's veteran International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Willi Daume told Reuters.

"I've always thought of it as being a very realistic idea. But let's not get too hasty, there is a long way to go yet. They are 15 years away," added Daume, chief organizer of the 1972 Munich Olympics, the last held on German soil.

"I can imagine the idea will receive good support in the IOC which has always aimed to foster humanitarian action and world peace. For instance, they have always supported the idea of a joint East-West German Olympic team."

East and West Germany entered combined teams at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics before competing separately for the first time in 1968.

East Germany's newly-found openness, manifested by last week's decision to allow its citizens to travel freely out of the country, has also moved to the field of sport.

Last week it admitted for the first time that some of its athletes

had tested positive for banned performance-enhancing drugs.

In the past East Germany, one of the world's big medal-winning nations at summer and winter games, vehemently denied that its sports stars took drugs.

The Communist state is keen in cash in more on the success of its athletes on the increasingly lucrative international circuit and also realises that the Olympic could help its economy.

East German Athletics Association chief Heinz Kadow said the country would send athletes to all of next year's European grand prix meetings and hoped to earn around \$1 million from their appearance money and victory bonuses.

The national soccer team would also stop off in Kuwait during a training trip at the end of January and earn what soccer officials called "five-figure" sum in an exhibition match.

East Germany's National Olympic Committee spokesman Volker Kluge said joint Berlin games were "not implausible" and called for intensive talks ab-

out the advantages and disadvantages for both countries.

The East German city of Leipzig was also a possible Olympic candidate, he said.

West Berlin has already set up bodies to promote the city's Olympic bid which has the full backing of the city council and Mayor Walter Momper.

Daume said it would receive the full support of all other West German cities competing for the West German candidature.

"All the competing cities agreed way before last week's developments that they would stand down and back Berlin totally if there was a real chance," Daume said.

"But no-one of course could have predicted how fast things have gone in the last week. We have no plans to hold immediate talks with the East Germans but obviously there will be discussions in the future."

In the past, Olympic games have often been used by countries from the East and West to boost their political as well as sporting

power.

South Korea offered Communist North Korea the chance to

stage some of the events at last year's Seoul Olympics but the proposal was rejected.

Olympic gold medal winner dead at 25

MONTREAL (AP) — Victor Davis, the Canadian swimmer who won an Olympic gold medal in 1984 and held the world's record in the 200-metre breaststroke for seven years, died Monday of injuries from being hit by a car. He was 25.

Davis was one of Canada's most successful and colourful swimmers, a strapping young man who once said he wanted to be remembered as "the greatest breaststroke swimmer who ever lived" — and came close to achieving that ambition.

He won a gold and two silver medals at the 1984 Olympics, a silver medal as part of a relay team at the 1988 games in Seoul and numerous Commonwealth and Canadian championships.

He was declared clinically dead after spending two days in a coma after the car accident, said Jacques Charbonneau, a spokesman for Notre-Dame Hospital.

"Canada has lost a treasure, an important natural resource," said Clifford Barry, who coached Davis from boyhood until his retirement from competitive swimming last July.

Funeral services were to be held in Guelph, Ontario, Davis' home town. No date was set because his family requested that

his organs be used for transplants and was uncertain when the body would be available.

Davis suffered a several skull fracture, brain and spinal damage and multiple bruises early Saturday morning when hit by a car while standing in the street in suburban Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue after what his girlfriend, Donna Clavel, said was an altercation with three men.

Family and friends have questioned a police statement that the incident was a traffic accident and have hired a criminal lawyer to investigate.

Clavel, 22, said Davis had argued with three young men, who had been drinking heavily. She alleged that the men drove straight at Davis and hit him, throwing him some 10 metres head-first into a parked car. The men then drove away, she said. "I don't know if they were playing chicken or whatever," she said. "The doctor said the damage was the same as falling from a four- or five-story building."

Police said Saturday that the fatal accident was not considered a hit-and-run because the driver, a 19-year-old man, reported immediately to a nearby police station.

World Cup

Europeans calculate their chances

By Timothy Collings
Reuter

LONDON — Strong nerves and pocket calculators will be required all over Europe on Wednesday when the continent's leading soccer powers attempt to secure their places in next year's World Cup finals.

On a night of tense showdowns in six of the seven qualifying groups, the European line-up for next summer's 24-nation tournament in Italy should be finally resolved although it may need a slide rule to complete the list of 13 European nations to join those already assured of their invitations.

Only Sweden, England, Yugoslavia, Spain and Belgium are already guaranteed their passages to Italy along with Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

The rest, including such traditional powers as the Soviet Union, West Germany and 1988 European champions, the Netherlands, have still to confirm their bookings by taking points from their final ties on a night of 12 matches.

West Germany, twice winners and three-times beaten finalists including defeat by Argentina in Mexico three years ago, require a clear victory over Wales in Cologne to secure their place in Italy outright.

But, with the two best second-placed teams from groups one, two and four assured of reservations, they could also go through as group four runners-up if they are narrowly beaten and Romania lose at home to Denmark in their group one showdown in Bucharest earlier in the day.

West German manager Franz Beckenbauer, aware of possible problems if his players relaxed before the game, has stressed that his team must play to win regardless of the outcome of the Danes visit to Romania.

"Our preparations have been aimed at the fact that we must

win. It would be better if the Bucharest result keeps it that way so that we have total concentration from the first second of the match."

The Netherlands, who lead West Germany in group four, will also secure their place if they triumph at home to Finland in a match which has required high security preparations including random metal detector checks and huge safety nets behind the goals.

Two years ago, Dutch qualification for the European championship finals was threatened after a firework thrown from the crowd hit the Cypriot goalkeeper during a qualifying tie. The match was eventually re-played behind locked doors and the Dutch qualified comfortably and went on to take the title.

The Soviet Union also need a victory to complete their qualification from group three, but should have little difficulty in beating second-placed Turkey in Simferopol.

For the Turks, defeat would spell elimination and the winners of Austria's home tie against East Germany would join the Soviet Union in the finals. If both matches end in draws, intricate calculations will be required.

The outcome of group one will be decided outright in Romania where Denmark will qualify as group winners if they avoid defeat. If they lose, the Danes only hope is of an unlikely passage as one of the best runners-up.

Scotland, having qualified for

the last four finals tournaments, should make it five in a row by beating Norway in Glasgow. But such is the unpredictable nature of the Scots, France could still be given a late opportunity to overhaul them by beating Cyprus on Saturday to qualify.

Groups six and seven are

equally complex with Spain and Belgium already through and Ireland, in group six, needing just a point from their visit to Malta to join them and Portugal, in seven, chasing a four-goal winning margin over Czechoslovakia to oust them and go through as section runners-up.

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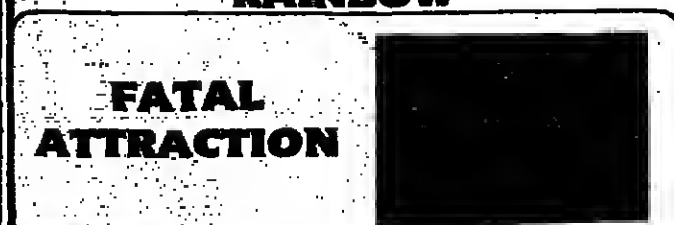
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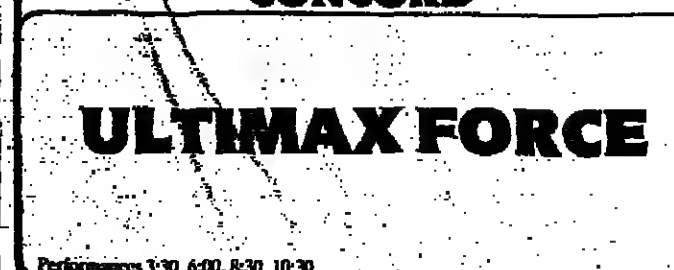
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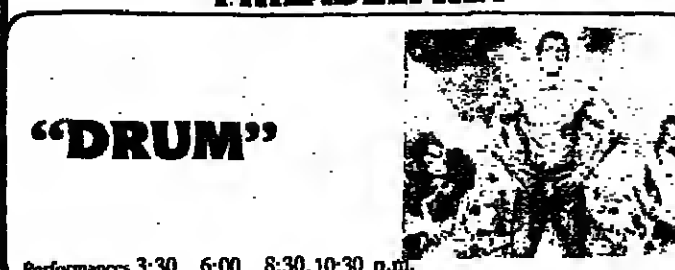
CONCORD



Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

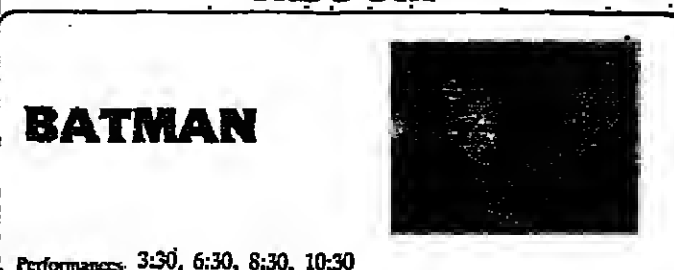
PHILADELPHIA



Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

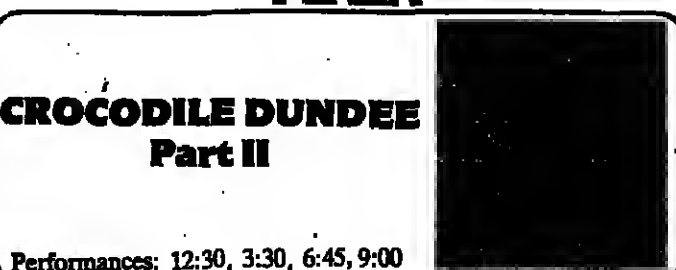
NIJOUN



Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA



Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:00

SWAPO wins Namibian pre-independence polls

WINDHOEK (R) — The nationalist party SWAPO won the Namibian independence elections, according to unofficial results Tuesday, but doubts remained that it had gained a two-thirds majority to push through its own constitution.

The leftist South West Africa People's Organisation, which fought a 23-year-long bush war against South African rule of the huge desert territory, moved into a commanding position after votes were counted from its northern stronghold of Ovambo. Results showed that in Ovambo, where half the population of Namibia lives, SWAPO had crushed its main rival, the centrist Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

The vote is for a constituent assembly which will guide Namibia to independence next year, ending 74 years of South African rule.

SWAPO had hoped for a two-thirds majority in the elections to enable it to write its own constitution. That goal is theoretically still within reach because absentee and delayed ballots have still to be counted.

But the unofficial results showed it was increasingly unlikely and SWAPO looked set to emerge from the poll with about 40 seats in the 72-seat assembly.

SWAPO's performance in Ovambo, where it won 197,000 votes against the DTA's 9,000, reversed a lacklustre showing in

most other areas of the territory on the west coast of southern Africa.

Failure to reach the two-thirds figure means that SWAPO would have to negotiate with other parties, notably the DTA, on the constitution for independence.

But there was no sign of disappointment among SWAPO supporters as the results came in.

Minutes after the Ovambo result was announced, cars packed with SWAPO backers paraded through Windhoek, their horns blaring. Occupants leaned out of windows giving clenched fist salutes.

At SWAPO headquarters, officials embraced each other while outside several hundred people chanted "viva SWAPO."

SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma, who spent nearly 30 years in exile before returning to his homeland this year, went to government headquarters in Windhoek to hold talks with Louis Pienaar, South Africa's top official in Namibia.

Nujoma is expected to head the government of Africa's newest nation following independence next year.

Born in a Cape Town barber's shop in 1960, Namibia's black nationalist movement SWAPO led an unequal armed struggle against South African rule before the ballot box brought it victory.

Led by Nujoma, former railwayman, SWAPO abandoned non-violence in 1966 but was outgunned in its 23-year war by South Africa's military machine.

The movement was launched in 1960, with Nujoma as president, by a group of Ovambo exiles who met in a Cape Town barber's shop to discuss politics and labour relations in their homeland.

It abandoned non-violence in 1966 after South Africa defied the world court and refused to relinquish its World War I mandate for the League of Nations to rule Namibia, then known as South-West Africa.

For the territory's prosperous white minority of 80,000, SWAPO was the enemy — heartless guerrillas who bombed shops, abducted children and preached revolution.

For its black opponents SWAPO was a corrupt northern clique whose incompetence and infighting scuppered its military ambitions.

They point to the SWAPO incursion at the start of the U.N. peace process in April that provoked the fiercest fighting of the war. More than 300 guerrillas were killed before superpower intervention rescued the peace plan.



Namibians wait in line to cast their vote during the pre-independence elections

Bonn, Warsaw declare all European frontiers inviolable

WARSAW (R) — West Germany and Poland Tuesday declared all European borders inviolable and backed the territorial integrity of all states in the continent.

A joint declaration signed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said secure frontiers were a fundamental precondition for peace in Europe.

"The inviolability of borders as well as respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states in Europe in their existing borders are a fundamental precondition for peace," the statement said.

Kohl and Mazowiecki signed the declaration on the last day of the chancellor's visit to Poland, designed to sweep away 50 years of mutual suspicion since the German invasion of Poland that launched World War II.

However, the statement fell

short of a formal legalisation of Poland's postwar frontiers sought by Warsaw.

Poland includes large former German territories awarded to it by the victorious World War II allies. Kohl has repeatedly said West Germany has no claims to the areas but insists that the present frontiers can only receive final legal endorsement in a European peace treaty.

The 15-page declaration, intended to launch a new era of postwar Polish-West German relations, set out a broad programme of cooperation at state and local levels.

It said the two countries were determined to achieve a lasting peace and establish their future relations as "an example of good neighbourliness."

"The Federal Republic of Germany and the Polish People's Republic are deeply convinced that the development of their

relations mapped out in this joint declaration is of fundamental importance for peace, security and stability in Europe and for the positive development of the East-West relationship as a whole," the declaration said.

Kohl bowed his head in silent tribute Tuesday at the former death camp at Auschwitz where the Nazis killed four million people during World War II.

Kohl laid a wreath at the Auschwitz Death Wall where 30,000 victims were shot. It was the last day of an official visit to Poland.

Kohl tried to reassure Poles Monday that a reunification of East and West Germany would not threaten their country.

Kohl said in a speech Monday that any rapprochement between the two Germanys emerging from the upheaval in East Germany would not divert Bonn from helping Poland's economic reforms and recovery.

Blast kills 1 in Philippine office

MANILA (R) — One person was feared killed when a powerful explosion rocked the offices of the Philippine Commission on Election in Manila Tuesday evening, witnesses said.

The blast, which shattered

window panes and lamps, occurred five days before the commission was due to supervise a plebiscite in the southern Philippines on a government offer of autonomy for 13 Muslim-inhabited provinces in Mindanao.

Muslim separatist rebels demanding a separate state in the region oppose the plebiscite and had threatened violence if the government pushed through with its autonomy plan.

Prince Franz Josef of Liechtenstein dies

VADUZ (R) — Europe's longest-reigning monarch, Prince Franz Josef of Liechtenstein, has died at the age of 83, the government said Tuesday.

He died late Monday night in a Swiss hospital just across the border. His wife Gina died on Oct. 18 aged 67.

A government spokeswoman said funeral details had not been arranged yet.

His wife was buried in a simple

ceremony in Vaduz, the capital, on Oct. 24 in the presence of royalty and politicians from across Europe. They had married in 1943 and had five children.

Franz Josef had led the tiny Roman Catholic principality of 28,000 people since 1938. He handed over executive power to his eldest son Crown Prince Hans Adam five years ago but remained titular head of state.

Hans Adam, 44, who now suc-

ceeds as monarch, is a trained economist. He has campaigned for Liechtenstein to join the United Nations, although neighbouring Switzerland has rejected joining the world body.

Franz Josef was the first prince to reside in the principality since it came under the domain of the House of Liechtenstein almost 300 years ago.

Until 1938 he lived, like his predecessors, in Vienna.

Managua reports more combat deaths

JUIGALPA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — Eight rebels have been killed in two recent clashes with Sandinista troops in southeastern Nicaragua, a military spokesman said.

The deaths resulted from confrontations in Acayapa, 45 miles south east of Managua, and in Rama,

200 miles south east of the capital, on Friday and Saturday, he said.

The government has launched a major offensive against contra rebels since Nov. 1, when President Daniel Ortega suspended a 19-month-old ceasefire with the

rebels.

The Sandinista government estimated that 4,000 contras have slipped over the border in recent weeks. There are about 12,000 contras living in camps in Honduras along with their dependents.

Amnesty calls on OAS to protect human rights

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International appealed Tuesday to the Organisation of American States (OAS) to stop illegal executions, disappearances and other human rights abuses in several Latin American countries.

The worldwide human rights organisation said there has been a "dramatic deterioration" in human rights in parts of the region during the last 18 months. Widespread violence in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and El Salvador was of particular concern, it said.

It appealed to the OAS, whose foreign ministers are meeting in Washington, to help eradicate "abhorrent" violations by government forces and paramilitary groups linked with them.

In its catalog of allegations, Amnesty International reported that since 1988:

— More than 2,500 civilians in Colombia have been deliberately and unlawfully killed for political reasons by the army and paramilitary forces working for them, and more than 300 people have disappeared.

— Hundreds of Peruvians have disappeared, been tortured or killed by government forces.

— In Guatemala, hundreds of victims reportedly disappeared or were illegally executed by members of the security forces operating in uniform or clandestinely in the guise of death squads.

— In El Salvador, now mired in the worst fighting of its 10-year civil war, there was "persuasive evidence" that police and military personnel carried out abductions, disappearances and politically motivated killings attributed to death squads.

Amnesty International said it has also received reports this year of illegal executions or disappearances in other countries in the region, including Brazil and Nicaragua.

It said several countries in the Americas continued to use the death penalty, which it campaigns against as cruel and unusual punishment.

It noted that so far this year 14 prisoners had been executed in the United States.

Sectarian battles confuse Indian election predictions

NEW DELHI (R) — Surging Hindu-Muslim strife has thrown predictions about the outcome of next week's Indian elections into complete confusion, analysts and diplomats said Tuesday.

"The communal issue has become the foremost issue in the elections," said leading Indian pollster Prannoy Roy.

"The whole thing is churning. Tremendous changes are going on that we don't normally see at this stage," he said. Voting starts on Nov. 22.

"All our predictions are out of the window, I think," an ambassador said. "The only advice I can give is not to believe anything anyone tells you and wait for the results."

Most election analysts have been predicting that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, which has ruled for all but two of India's 42 years of independence, will lose its huge parliamentary majority.

But they expected Congress would still be the biggest single party in parliament and would form the next government in a country which proclaims itself the world's biggest democracy.

Religious tension came to a head on Nov. 9 when fundamentalist Hindus laid the foundation stone of a new temple next to an old mosque in the electorally vital northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

The fundamentalist aim is to demolish the 16th-century mosque in the town of Ayodhya, in the belief it was built on the site of a temple marking the birthplace of the Hindu deity Rama.

"The influential imam of Delhi, Syed Abdullah Bukhari, has told minority Muslims to vote against the Congress Party, saying it allowed the ceremonies to go ahead in a bid to win votes among the 650 million Hindu majority."

The Muslim vote is going to the opposition, but the question is how many Hindu votes are con-

gress picking up," said Roy.

The religious strife, in which hundreds have been killed, erupted again Tuesday.

Officials in northern Bihar state said at least five people were killed in Bhagalpur, scene of ferocious violence in late October when more than 200 people were killed.

The violence may also have damaged the opposition campaign.

Behind the fundamentalists in Ayodhya was the Hindu chauvinist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has worked out a deal with other opposition parties to put up single candidates against Congress in most constituencies.

The BJP's gleeful attitude over what Hindu fundamentalists called a magnificent victory in Ayodhya has upset Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the main opposition leader who is busily courting the votes of India's 100 million Muslims.

Yeshwant Sinha, spokesman for Singh's Janata Dal Party, said his leader rejected a BJP invitation for a joint campaign.

"We cannot have a joint campaign because we do not agree on policies, especially on Muslims," Sinha said.

The antagonism could hurt the five-party opposition alliance with the Janata Dal at its core, which has a single candidate deal with the BJP in more than 400 constituencies for the 545-member parliament.

The religion issue is most sensitive, and Gandhi is most vulnerable — in the Hindi-speaking heartland of north India which contains more than half the total seats. The BJP is also strongest there, Roy said.

But Muslims in north India have enough votes in many constituencies to swing victory to the opposition if Gandhi does not gain more Hindu votes than he loses over Ayodhya.

Salvadoran rebels vow to fight on

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran leftist rebels were entrenched in several densely populated neighbourhoods in the capital late Monday and said they were ready to make a stand against the army.

Heavy fighting between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels and government troops continued through Monday, killing over 300 people across the country, according to military sources.

"At the moment we're strong and they are not going to make us retreat from San Salvador," the leader of a group of rebels holding a sector of the working class suburb of Mejicanos told reporters.

Diplomats predicted more fighting and bloodshed following the second full day of the rebel offensive that brought some of the heaviest fighting in El Salvador in 10 years of civil war.

In Havana, the FMLN Cuban representative said Monday that the guerrillas launched the offensive to force the right-wing government to negotiate as the only solution to end the war.

"What we want from this offensive is for the government to understand once and for all that we are not weak but strong and that the only way to find a solution to the Salvadoran conflict is through negotiation," Francisco Castro told a news conference.

Salvadoran military leaders rejected the rebel claims of strength and said the military had the situation under control.

Pollution — the new smell of freedom in W. Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — For West Berlin cabbie Augustin Vogel, the opening of the Berlin Wall was a joy to his heart and an insult to his nose.

"Ach, the stinking fumes from those terrible one-lane wrecks. Who would have thought pollution was the smell of freedom?" With that, Vogel left the wheel of his Mercedes-Benz taxi and helped a laughing, cheering crowd of West Berliners push another haphazard East German Trahan through the newly opened hole in the Berlin Wall at Potsdamer Platz.

Children peered out of the tiny two-cylinder car at French soldiers chipping pieces out of the wall.

The weekend spree that saw 3 million East Germans come West had slowed from a torrent to a steady gush, but every daylight hour was still rish hour on the streets of West Berlin.

There was a line to get into a pedestrian variety store on Tauentzien Strasse, while salesgirls in East Berlin stared out the windows of their empty boutiques at Leipziger Strasse, East Berlin's street of high fashion.

Along West Berlin's opulent Kurfuerstendamm, Westerners blamed Monday's fog on the exhaust from countless Trabants and Wartburgs, whose engines burn a mixture of oil and gasoline and sound not unlike a chainsaw.

"Still it's a miracle to see all those DDR plates," enthused refrigeration repairman Otto Esser, who had stayed away from work to spend his third consecutive day watching the flow of traffic through the wall.

"This has been the happiest time of my life. I was two years old when the wall went up. I'm taking pictures for my infant son who hopefully won't even have the wall as a memory."

"Oranges, bananas and coffee, that's what the Easties mainly buy with the 100 marks handed out free to them by the banks," reported Helga Rossmann, a beautician who also called in sick to spend another day watching the ceaseless flow of people along a dusty thoroughfare that only a week ago had been a death strip.

"Even on a crowded downtown street you can tell an East from a West Berliner by the happiness in their eyes. No wonder. Have you ever tried to get real coffee over there?"

Meanwhile, the East German Volkskammer, or parliament, was electing a new prime minister in the old town hall up by the Brandenburg Gate. But at a Bierstube just a few blocks away blue-collar beer drinkers switched off this lead story on the nightly government television news to see if the Western channels were reporting any new holes

in the Schandmauer, the "wall of shame."

On the other side of the looming gate, a procession of Western television reporters waited their turns to be filmed with Berlin's most recognisable landmark in the background.

They also had to wait in line to interview the curators of West Berlin's museum at Checkpoint Charlie, which houses a brave and bizarre collection of motor bikes, battered buses, homemade submarines and hot-air balloons that had confounded East Berlin's wall guards, patrol dogs and mine fields.

"The Easties will be back in even larger numbers this weekend," predicted Axel Gruber, who sells postcards at Potsdamer Platz, a barren wasteland that once was the crossroads of Berlin's cultural life.

"This time it won't be for just shopping. They'll want to see our famous zoo and the Rembrandts and the head of Queen Nefertiti in the Dahle Museum. They know free Berlin has more to offer than blue jeans..."

Among the hordes of East Germans who have streamed into West Berlin for shopping and celebration, thousands have also made a sobering stop at the museum at Checkpoint Charlie. There, they can see evidence of how severely their government dealt with people who attempted

to flee. They also can see evidence of the ingenuity born of desperation of those who successfully crossed over, under or through the Berlin Wall.

The museum, which has been open around the clock since East Germany opened its borders, has been a "surprise and a shock" to many East Germans, said Assistant Director Horst Schumm.

"Some knew from West German television that escapes had been shot. But in the GDR (East Germany) they'd been told that the reports were lies from the West," he said.

He stood beside a little bubble-shaped Iskra automobile into which a sort of plywood coffin had been built, just big enough to hold a person. The tiny car ferried escapees through the wall six times.

There's a collapsible metal ladder, a replica of one designed by three young East German artists, who used it to scale the 4.2-metre wall on the night of April 26, 1989.

And there is a bullet-scarred van, reinforced with armour plating and concrete poured into the doors, in which five people got away on the night of Nov. 14, 1961.

Bush honours Walesa

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush gave Polish Solidarity founder Lech Walesa America's highest civilian honour and called him the spiritual godfather of the democracy movements electrifying Eastern Europe.

Greeting the 46-year-old Gdansk shipyard worker on his first U.S. visit, Bush also said the changes sweeping the Soviet Bloc, which last week saw the crumbling of barriers in East Germany, show that freedom is an idea whose time has come.

"Lenin and Stalin have been disproved, not by presidents or princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and his fellow workers in a brave union called Solidarity," he said before pinning the Medal of Freedom on Walesa.

The medal previously has been awarded to such world figures as Mother Teresa and late Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat.

Bush called Walesa, who in 1980 sparked a movement in Communist Poland for the political and economic reforms that have since spread through much of the Soviet Bloc, the "spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy."

Walesa, whose eyes appeared to be brimming with tears during the presentation, said his visit fulfilled a lifelong dream because he admired the United States as a land of freedom.

"You took that freedom yourself. Nobody gave it to you," he said.

Shortly before Walesa arrived in Washington from Canada on his 11-day trip to North and South America, the Senate gave preliminary approval to a plan, calling for \$750 million in aid to Poland and Hungary over three years.

Another Sri Lankan extremist leader killed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government troops captured and killed another leader of the Sinhalese extremist group that has been trying to overthrow the government, a cabinet minister said Tuesday.

Upatissa Gamanayake, the second-in-command of the People's Liberation Front, was shot to death Monday night when he tried to escape from custody, Foreign Minister Ranjana Wijeratne said.

Gamanayake's reported killing came less than 24 hours after the government announced that its forces had killed the front's supreme leader, Rohana Wijeweera, and his third-in-command.

Gamanayake, 36, was regarded as their apparent to Wijeweera, the front's founder.

Wijeratne said Gamanayake was captured on information provided by Wijeweera and was leading interrogators to a front hideout when he tried to jump out of the vehicle. Soldiers shot and killed him, Wijeratne said.

More than 6,000 people have been slain since August 1987, when the People's Liberation Front started attacking and assassinating government officials.

Wilder collection sold for \$32.6m

NEW YORK (AP) — Eighty-five sculptures, paintings and drawings collected by director and screenwriter Billy Wilder have brought \$32.6 million at auction, Christie's said. The highest price paid among the diverse collection of impressionist and modern works was \$4.84 million for a 1921 pastel by Pablo Picasso, "classic head of a woman," which was not a record. Among the 11 artists whose works sold Monday for record prices were Balbus, whose oil painting "In Toilette" brought \$2.09 million; Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, whose oil painting "Two Nudes on a Sofa" went for \$1.54 million and Marino Marini, whose bronze sculpture, "Little Rider," sold for \$671,000, the auction house said. The Austrian-born Wilder, 83, who directed films including "Lost Weekend," "Sunset Boulevard," "Double Indemnity" and "Some Like It Hot," watched the auction.

Gorilla attacker judged insane

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — A man who leaped into a Melbourne zoo gorilla pen and attacked the apes was committed to a mental institution Tuesday, while police checked reports that his father had been slain. Zoo staff said the 27-year-old man jumped into the gorilla enclosure Monday and chased Betsy, an adult female, while making monkey sounds and beating his chest with his fists. The man punched and kicked the terrified primate and drove a 5-year-old baby male, Mzizi, into a corner. He was finally trapped in a pen until police arrived, zoo spokeswoman Judith Henkey said. Police withheld the man's name and refused comment on news reports quoting them as saying that the man's father was found slain last week in the garden of his home. The assailant, from the southern state of Tasmania, arrived in Melbourne Monday and went straight to the zoo, shouting "I've come to kill a gorilla," police said. He told police that "voices" instructed him to attack the animals. A police spokesman said that after being examined by police doctors, the man was committed under the mental health act. She would not say where he was being held or give her name.

Thieves break into prison

TEL AVIV (R) — Thieves broke into an Israeli jail and stole two colour televisions as most inmates slept at the weekend, a prison spokeswoman has said. The thieves cut through a barbed-wire fence round Ma'asiyahu open prison in the central town of Ramle. Prison officials suspect inmates passed the televisions through the hole to the criminals waiting outside. No one has been arrested.

Rusting car found in crater of Vesuvius

NAPLES (R) — An Italian scientist who explored the crater of Mount Vesuvius was horrified to find discarded soft-drink cans, old tyres and even the rusting hulk of a Fiat 500 car. Ines Albergho, who descended 350 metres into the mouth of the Dormant Volcano, told the Rome newspaper Il Tempo: "People throw things just to hear the noise. They risk transforming the volcano into an enormous rubbish heap, because it would be crazy to try and pull all that mess out." Vesuvius has been quiet since an eruption in A.D. 79 which buried the Roman town of Pompeii.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	4	11	Cloudy
ATHENS	10	18	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	23	33	Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	34	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	25	Cloudy
Cairo	14	24	Cloudy
CHICAGO	05	08	Rain
COPENHAGEN	02	11	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01	11	Cloudy
GENOVA	02	10	Cloudy
HONG KONG	22	27	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	07	11	Cloudy
LONDON	07	14	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	14	21	Cloudy
MADRID	13	21	Cloudy
MECCA	24	36	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-22	02	Cloudy
MOSCOW	-01	30	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	24	31	Cloudy
NEW YORK	03	13	Cloudy
PAPUA	06	15	Cloudy
PARIS	02	17	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	18	25	Cloudy
SEOUL	15	21	Cloudy
SINGAPORE	24	32	Cloudy